EAST BAY EXPRESS

MARCH 9-15, 2011

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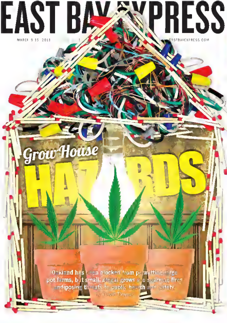

Grow House HAZARDS

Oakland has been blocked from permitting large pot farms, but small, illegal grows are sparking fires and posing threats to public health and safety.

by David Downs

THEATER 21

FULL DISCLOSURE 9

COPS MAKE BANK ON OVERTIME

Two Oakland police officers ensnared in a federal lawsuit involving alleged overtime abuses also are among the highest overtime earners in the city

By Robert Gammon

The Oakland Police Department has come under fire recently for demanding that event organizers and nightclub owners pay for costly police overtime. Newly released city records also reveal just how lucrative overtime remains for Oakland cops — even after the city attempted to curtail excessive overtime. Records show that 194 sworn police personnel pocketed at least $20,000 each in overtime in 2010. The biggest overtime earner on the force made more than $100,000. He also happens to be ensnared in a federal civil rights case that involves alleged overtime abuses. Officer Michael Morse, a member of an OPD unit that unilaterally decides how much event organizers and club owners must pay for police overtime, made $118,414 in overtime last year.

Story inside

CULTURE SPY 17

THE DEMISE OF KITTY'S

A month ago, the Emeryville bar and dance club was on the upswing. Then one fight destroyed everything.

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6:00–7:30 pm—Workshop

Fremont—Monday, February 28th
Fremont Public Library Fukaya Room A
2400 Stevenson Blvd
6:30–7:00 pm—Informational Open House
7:00–8:30 pm—Workshop

Hayward—Wednesday, March 9th
Hayward City Hall, Conference Room 2A
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7:00–8:30 pm—Workshop

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7:00–8:30 pm—Workshop

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7:00–8:30 pm—Workshop

Another round of community workshops will be held in Fall 2011. All locations are ADA and transit accessible. Individuals who require special accommodations should contact MIG at least 72 hours in advance of the workshop.

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

Gallant Is Guilty

It's too hard to explain to anybody who hasn't experienced the last several years of Alameda politics that this article is incomplete. It sounds like you got both sides, but it is an awfully slanted article. It really requires going back two city managers ago to get the entire trajectory. We had a guy who was similarly prone to overreaching, which lead to the city manager who preceded Gallant, who was perhaps too far the opposite. If you live here you know the article could have been written by activists who back Gallant. The article fails to include all the recent evidence that Gallant was sitting on information about a range of city business and stalling in order to manipulate things toward a specific agenda. She also used her position to engage in contracts for amounts just under the $75,000 limit that requires council approval for projects of her choosing with new local companies with which she had prior relationships. It would take another four-page article to explain the entire scenario, but people should not take this article as complete.

Mark Irons, Alameda

On the Path to Recovery

This article uses poor sources and is inaccurate in both approach and specifics. I agree with Mark Irons. The previous council majority and Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant took the City of Alameda on a path of unjustified obfuscation and persecution (of Lena Tam in particular). The current council majority is making markedly different — and better, in my opinion — decisions on behalf of greater transparency and accountability. The howls of protest from a small but vocal minority need to be understood in this context. The City of Alameda, far from being in serious trouble, is beginning to dig itself out of a recently-dug and deep hole. The new majority (Gilmore, Bonta, and Tam) and Acting City Manager Lisa Goldman are working hard to reverse the damage done under Ann Marie Gallant's administration. I hope the *Express* will get its next story on Alameda politics right.

Jon Spangler, Alameda

Breaking the Law?

Great article. Well researched and covers both sides thoughtfully.

Ann Marie Gallant and Teresa Highsmith were doing their jobs when they asked for an investigation into Tam sending confidential attorney e-mails to both the firefighters and SunCal vice president. Tam breached her fiduciary duty to the residents of Alameda. It is truly a shame that all of this was essentially whitewashed when DA O'Malley refused to prosecute Tam.

Then SunCal spent tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars to elect this triumvirate. They promptly fired those responsible for getting rid of SunCal. Gilmore garnered only 36 percent of the vote and is leading the way for developers to rip off any profits at Alameda Point. The Meyers Nave law firm, which gave its kiss of approval to the closed-door goings-on, concluded that sending someone home on paid leave and locking them out of their office was not the equivalent of "firing." They were apparently consulted prior to the firings (one wonders how, as only the city attorney can hire outside counsel). If this was legit, as Meyers Nave claims, why did the city immediately hire conflict lawyers, thereby doubling or even tripling legal costs, for both Highsmith and Gallant in the SunCal lawsuits? Was this also on Meyers' advice? Seems like an acknowledgement that the council's actions created legitimate causes of action for Gallant and Highsmith against the city, triggering the need for additional lawyers.

This still does not explain the mayor calling up a city employee and putting her on paid administrative leave and telling her she was also terminated. The Meyers firm started when Steve Meyers wrote a memo to the San Leandro City Council asking to eliminate the position of city attorney and hire him as the sole legal provider. Talk about a Government Code Sec. 1090 violation! And this is the firm advising the council on compliance with applicable statutes? The DA needs to get off her butt and prosecute.

Barbara Thomas, former Vice Mayor, Alameda

Corrections

In our March 2 Culture Spy, we erroneously said that Richie Cunning has neck tattoos. It was actually Joe Cutter. Also, we wrongly attributed the lyric "I never let the fickleness of new company comfort me" to Cunning. ●

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

RAISING THE BAR

A COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES

Even those uncomfortable with Mormon institutions should appreciate BYU's suspension of star basketball player Brandon Davies.

By Jay Youngdahl

In a year in which Cal was put on probation and West Coast college basketball is down, the most important thing to come out of this season might be Brigham Young University's suspension of a star basketball player for an honor code violation. Given the rising tide of hypocrisy in public life, we should respect those who stick to their principles.

This year, traditional Pac-10 basketball powerhouses are having poor seasons, with only Arizona currently ranked in the Top 25. But two less prestigious schools, **Brigham Young University** and **San Diego State University**, are playing big-time basketball and have — or had — a legitimate chance of being crowned the kings of March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament. These two teams played a scintillating game in San Diego on February 26, with Brigham Young and its player-of-the-year candidate **Jimmer Fredette** handily beating San Diego State to garner a likely No. 1 seed in the upcoming national tournament.

That game had all that great college basketball games are famous for — wonderful teamwork, individual brilliance, and heart-pumping action. As often occurs, the crowd included a rude student section. Despite entreaties to respect the religion of the BYU athletes, many in the San Diego State student section mockingly dressed like Mormon missionaries, in white short-sleeved dress shirts, black ties, and bike helmets. Also in attendance in the center of the first row was a ten-year-old boy who was holding a red poster that read "Hi Mom(s)." He was quoted at CNNSI.com as saying that his mom made it for him: "She told me that the BYU players have more than one mom."

But just a few days later, BYU fans were crushed as their leading rebounder, **Brandon Davies**, was suspended from the team for a violation of the BYU Honor Code. Losing Davies probably dooms BYU's chances for a national championship. Davies, a sophomore power forward, had been a star Utah high school player. When he came out of high school, Cal had hoped to lure him to Berkeley, but Davies chose to stay in his home state.

According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Davies apparently violated the BYU Honor Code that requires students, consistent with the teaching of the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, to abstain from premarital sex. Students are also required to be honest, attend church regularly, and abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse. Davies will be suspended from the team for the rest of the season. Speaking of the suspension, BYU basketball coach **Dave Rose** said, "Everybody who comes to BYU, every student, if they're an athlete or not an athlete, they make a commitment when they come here."

Having a commitment and sticking to it is a trait that is sorely lacking today. For that reason alone, I am impressed by BYU's action.

We live in a world in which we are constantly assaulted by a tsunami of self-serving hypocrisy, even from many on "our" team. The corrosive effects of this hypocrisy should not be discounted. It is most obvious in our favorite spectator activities: sports and politics. Stories of dishonesty in college sports are legion; the recent revelations that the University of Oregon paid alleged fixers tens of thousands of dollars to assist in the delivery of star athletes to its football program is just the latest.

Like the leadership of college sports, the leaders of the political class are in the same morass. Consistency to transparent commitments seems passé. We get weekly examples of hypocrisy from our speaker of the US House, **John Boehner**. He claims that the budget and the US government deficit is his highest priority and that unionized public school teachers are holding "a machine gun" at the heads of local governmental officials, yet he is a prime architect of the bipartisan move to deliver multi-billion-dollar tax cuts to America's wealthy. Even the libertarian Tea Party Nation founder **Judson Phillips** has called Boehner a fool for his inconsistency, saying "**Charlie Sheen** is now making more sense than John Boehner."

But to be fair, faux allegiance to principles is a depressingly common feature of President **Barack Obama**'s administration. His administration's fealty to Bush torture policies and the horrifying treatment currently being meted out to Private **Bradley Manning**, the soldier accused of leaking diplomatic cables to **WikiLeaks**, exhibits a shocking lack of consistent principles. Manning is being stripped of his clothes for hours on a daily basis for some claimed infraction. This comes after the president's expressions of disdain for torture and support for the protection of government whistleblowers. So while our government condemns repression and human rights abuses in countries across the Middle East today, in a prison in our country we are openly engaging in the psychological torture and debasement of a young soldier who appears to have made a principled choice based on a laudatory principle.

Like with Manning, one must never forget the human. And for BYU student **Brandon Davies**, I feel nothing but sympathy. He has lost his chance at the thrill that success in the NCAA tournament would have brought. And it seems to have happened because he had sex with his girlfriend. My hope is that he is going to be fine.

Given their activity in the **Proposition 8** campaign, Mormon institutions are not well thought of among many caring Californians, and for good reason. Yet while consistency is supposed to be the hobgoblin of small minds, given today's climate of hypocrisy in our politics and in popular diversions, consistency with principles needs to be recognized and applauded. As BYU coach Rose said, "A lot of people try to judge if this is right or wrong, but it's a commitment they make. It's not about right or wrong. It's about commitment." In our current environment, I will take commitment over hypocrisy. ●

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SEVEN DAYS

IGNACIO BLOCKS TAX MEASURES

The longtime councilman single-handedly kept two measures that would increase city revenues off the June ballot.

By Robert Gammon

For the past several years Oakland Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente** has issued dire warnings about the city's finances to anyone who would listen. He led the effort to lay off eighty cops last summer when the police union refused to pay into its pension. He has raised the loudest concerns about the city's old retirement plan for police and firefighters. And he's repeatedly pushed for deeper cuts to city services and more concessions from public-employee unions. But then earlier this week, when the rest of the council voted to declare a fiscal emergency in the city, De La Fuente was the only one who refused to go along.

So did Oakland's finances suddenly rebound to De La Fuente's satisfaction? Hardly. Mayor **Jean Quan** and the council are grappling with a projected $46 million deficit. And at a special council meeting Monday night, Quan outlined a financial doomsday scenario that could strike if the state legislature goes along with Governor **Jerry Brown**'s plan to kill redevelopment and Republicans in Congress get their way on proposed federal budget cuts. The cutbacks, Quan warned, could cost the city more than $100 million a year, taking a huge bite out of Oakland's depleted $400 million general fund budget, which has already been cut by more than $90 million in the past two years.

So how is that not a "fiscal emergency?" Well, understanding De La Fuente's decision to defy his colleagues requires a bit of background about what was at stake. It turns out that if there is one thing that concerns De La Fuente more than the city's financial mess, it's taxes. He adamantly opposes them. And the council's decision to declare a fiscal emergency was all about putting tax measures on the June ballot.

At Monday's meeting, Quan proposed to put three tax measures before Oakland voters: a parcel tax, a phone tax, and an increase to the city's real estate transfer tax. The parcel tax would raise about $11.2 million in revenues annually; the phone tax, about $8.3 million; and the transfer tax, about $1.6 million — for a total of about $21 million. Quan said layoffs and other city cuts would make up the rest of her budget package. "No one thing is going to save the city," she said.

But putting the phone and transfer tax measures on the ballot required a unanimous declaration from the council that the city is in a fiscal emergency. The vote was 6-1, with De La Fuente the lone dissenter. The councilman said the city had not yet made enough structural changes or cuts. As a result, he single-handedly blocked Oakland voters from having a say over whether to tax themselves more or force the city to make deeper cuts. The two measures would have required a simple majority to win, and De La Fuente's vote means that the city will have to slash at least $10 million more from its budget — in addition to the severe cuts Quan must propose.

De La Fuente, however, could not block the parcel tax measure. It didn't need unanimous council consent because it's considered a special tax that requires two-thirds approval from the electorate. In the end, the council voted 5-2 to ask voters to weigh in on the parcel tax, with De La Fuente being joined by Councilwoman **Libby Schaaf**. Schaaf argued that it was too much of a gamble for the city to spend $800,000 on a special election on the chance that two-thirds of Oakland voters would approve an $11 million annual tax increase.

The question, however, of whether there will be a June election remained open as of early this week. Late last week, Brown and state Democratic leaders expressed confidence that they would get the Republican votes needed to put the governor's proposed tax measures on the June ballot. But then on Monday, five centrist GOP state senators who had been negotiating with Brown announced that their talks had stalled. If Brown can't muster at least four Republican votes — two each in the senate and the assembly — then there will be no June election. If that were to happen, then Oakland may have to conduct a vote-by-mail election to enact its $11 million parcel tax.

Republicans complained that Brown was unwilling to compromise. Like the mayors of big cities throughout the state — including Quan — the GOP Five want to save redevelopment and tax enterprise zones. They also want to reform public-employee pensions and curtail teacher seniority rights. Brown's spokesman **Gil Duran** complained that there wasn't enough time to negotiate the GOP's "laundry list."

And in an effort that critics alleged was designed to bolster Brown's call for eliminating redevelopment agencies, state Controller **John Chiang** issued a report sharply criticizing them. Chiang questioned the expanded definition of "blight" in California, noting that the City of Palm Desert had spent $17 million on a luxury golf resort. Chiang also questioned San Jose's decision to pay parts of the mayor and city council's salaries with redevelopment money — a practice that Oakland also employs.

Three-Dot Roundup

The **League of California Cities** plans to sue if the legislature approves Brown's plan to kill redevelopment in the state. ... **Lawrence Berkeley National Lab** received 21 bids from 8 cities for its new second campus. ... Federal agents raided the **Oaks Card Club** in Emeryville in a loan sharking case. ... The City of Oakland saved the **Jack London Aquatic Center** from closure. ... The City of Berkeley cracked down on chair massages at **Whole Foods** stores. ... The federal investigation into **PG&E**'s San Bruno disaster revealed that the pipeline was likely welded together from old metal scraps. ... Ex-Oakland Mayor **Ron Dellums** returned to Washington, DC, and joined a public relations firm. ... An arbitrator ordered Oakland to rehire a cop who fatally shot an unarmed suspect in the back. ... And **Amazon.com** threatened to pull out of California if lawmakers approve a bill that would force the online giant to collect sales taxes. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

LEGALIZATION NATION

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BERKELEY PATIENTS GROUP?

City's largest pot club is in no danger of closing despite its $6.3 million tax bill

By David Downs

Owners of Berkeley's biggest medical marijuana dispensary **Berkeley Patients Group** are hoping for a settlement behind closed doors on a $6.3 million tax bill. The three-year-old tax case drew fresh headlines recently when the **California Board of Equalization** issued a press release reiterating the board's stance on the dispensary's tax problems.

However, Berkeley Patients Group's operations have not been affected by the tax dispute and the club is not in danger of closing, said spokesman **Brad Senesac**. The dispensary just opened up a new space for patient services.

The dispensary's tax bill comes from sales of medical cannabis from 2004 to 2007. The board of equalization ruled that medical pot sales were taxable in 2007. Board Chairman **Jerome E. Horton** said that pot sales are retroactively taxable and that Berkeley Patients Group owes for those years.

Stephen DeAngelo, owner of **Harborside Health Center** in Oakland, endured a similar situation. He said the Board of Equalization told Harborside that pot was not taxable, then later came back and said it was, and Harborside owed millions in back taxes. Harborside paid them.

The board's decision to slap Berkeley Patients Group with a huge bill for back taxes stems from a larger movement to collect more taxes from pot clubs, and even street dealers. The board now holds that all weed sales, medical or otherwise, are taxable and the board intends to collect. The board has audited forty clubs, and suspects five hundred out of an estimated eight hundred in the state are not paying sales taxes. Horton has also backed the newly introduced **Senate Bill 626**, which would tax and regulate pot like tobacco for the first time.

Drugs Decriminalized in the Budget?

The State of California is so broke it might not be able to afford parts of its drug war anymore. Criminal laws are on the books, but funds for mandatory diversion into treatment are no longer available, meaning convicted drug offenders might have an out.

While numerous laws detail criminal penalties for drug possession, **Proposition 36**, enacted by 61 percent of voters in November 2000, says first- and second-time offenders for simple, non-violent drug possession must get substance-abuse treatment instead of jail time.

But Prop 36 funds have dried up. The state allocated $120 million per year for the first five years, set aside $108 million in 2008-2009 and $18 million in 2009-2010. Governor **Jerry Brown's** budget includes no money for it in 2011-2012, said **Lanny Swerdlow**, a dispensary owner and activist in San Bernardino County. "The coffers are empty, so it's a mandate with no money, but a mandate nonetheless," he said. But "someone who's eligible and demands treatment can't just be sent to jail."

Testing the Weed Testers, Cont.

Last month, we reported that none of the so-called medical cannabis laboratories testing local supplies for potency and safety have passed an independent, third-party audit — which is necessary to prove lab validity in the real lab world. To that end, several mainstream scientists had formed the **Alliance for Cannabis Science** based in Montana to voluntarily provide such audits.

Now, the alliance has a peer. On March 1, two Oakland labs, **Steep Hill** and **CW Analytical**, said they were forming the **Association of California Cannabis Laboratories** in Oakland "to address the growing need for standardization in the cannabis quality-assurance industry." The two labs met with representatives from a third lab, **Pure Analytics**, "to discuss policies and technologies in the evolving industry."

"The more we standardize our protocols, the more we truly serve our industry and the patient community," said Dr. **Robert Martin**, co-founder of CW Analytical.

"The mission of the organization is to promote sensible and consistent testing methodology between the labs, and to act," the group said in a press release. The group will provide a forum for inter-lab communication and conflict resolution.

David Lampach, co-founder of Steep Hill and an amateur chemist, said, "We are honored and excited to sit down with our colleagues in a spirit of cooperation to encourage the betterment of our industry as a whole."

Still, all unaudited lab data is suspect, said **Debby Goldsberry**, head of Berkeley Patients Group, at a conference for **NORML**, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "Anybody can open their doors and say 'We test cannabis.' What does that even mean?"

"There is no real lab out there that's doing good testing," said Senesac of Berkeley Patients Group. "There's no standards. I just don't think we have good labs out there yet."

Los Angeles Lotto Time

Some 229 Los Angeles medical marijuana dispensaries have made the deadline to join the city's pot club permit lottery. One hundred clubs will randomly win a permit to serve the estimated three million citizens in the city. Critics note that a lottery — as opposed to a merit-based system — all but ensures some irresponsible owners will get a coveted permit. Los Angeles also plans to tax medical marijuana sales at 5 percent on top of the state sales tax of 8.75 percent. The tax went before voters Tuesday. The city has taken fifteen years to regulate local clubs, and while city leaders dithered, unregulated clubs proliferated, creating violence and making Los Angeles the poster child for opponents of medical marijuana nationwide. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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ECO WATCH

APPS FOR OAK TREES

Can social media help save a forest?

By Caitlin Esch

Sudden Oak Death has taken down tens of thousands of trees in fourteen counties statewide, from Monterey to Humboldt. But how can researchers predict where else it will spread? "Hopefully it'll be limited to the coast, but still that's the entire West Coast," said **Katie Palmieri** of the **California Oak Mortality Task Force**. "And there are susceptible areas on the East Coast too."

There aren't enough scientists and funding available to comb every inch of every forest in search of *P. ramorum*, the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death. But some researchers hope that with the help of new technology they'll be able to harness the power of citizen science to fill in the gaps and map the spread of the disease.

OakMapper.org launched in 2001 with a relatively small but devoted following. The site, created by **Maggi Kelly**, a geographer at **UC Berkeley**, allows people to report trees that appear infected with *P. ramorum*. In the beginning, some users actually faxed maps with their approximate location to the Kelly lab. The entry would then pop up on a map, marked as a citizen report, differentiating it from an official report.

About a year ago, Oakmapper released a smart phone application that allows hikers to immediately report the disease. They don't have to bother with coordinates: GPS tracking takes care of that, Kelly said, and the application is catching on faster than the site did, with a few new downloads every day. "The data on the site [along with official data] is used to forecast where the disease will spread," Kelly said.

Inspired in part by the **US Geological Survey** web site that allows people to report minor earthquakes, Kelly thought that by lightly training a concerned citizenry, scientists could rapidly increase data collection. "What we really needed was a pair of eyes and a camera," Kelly explained. "I thought there would be lots of people out there hiking and biking and finding the disease."

Kelly estimates that Oakmapper has about one hundred dedicated users, in addition to the more official data the site also collects. According to Palmieri, even though Oakmapper doesn't offer a complete snapshot of the infestation, the information does help homeowners learn how to contain the disease and protect their property. "Some of the citizen science stuff is pretty darn good," Palmieri said. "We can't be out there in every part of the forest."

The citizen science approach to gathering data takes advantage of the moderately trained, willing masses. Perhaps the best example is the **Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count**, which attracts thousands of devoted hobbyists every year. The data collected by the count is used by biologists to track fluctuating bird populations. Then there's **eBird**, a web site created by the **Cornell University Lab of Ornithology** with the Audubon Society. The site allows people to log on and report bird sightings; it conveys easy-to-read data about myriad species in counties nationwide.

The Sudden Oak Death pathogen P. ramorum has been found in fourteen counties statewide. [illegible]

Other newer groups that take advantage of citizen labor include **What's Invasive Community Data Collection**, a web site and smart phone app that allows people to report weeds; **The California Roadkill Observation System**, which allows drivers to report roadkill — an important indicator of migrating patterns, as well as a serious driving hazard; and **iNaturalist**, a site that allows nature lovers to report things like their favorite bird watching spot.

"One of the things we discovered before we created the site, was that no one really knew what was happening" with roadkill, said **Jim Quinn**, co-creator of **WildLifeCrossing.net**. "It was all anecdotal." Quinn also directs the Information Center for the Environment at UC Davis. He said the site, which launched in 2009, has between five hundred and six hundred regular contributors, plus thousands of one-time or anonymous users. The information collected through the site is used by Caltrans to build better fences or in some cases, to plan larger-scale overpasses or tunnels for animals migrating across highways.

Still, the citizen science approach has its drawbacks. WildLifeCrossing.net grapples with identification errors; the site asks contributors to include a photo of reported roadkill, though for obvious reasons this doesn't always happen. "If we get something interesting, like a dead mountain lion or something rarer, we might alert biologists or experts in the area — someone we trust 100 percent to validate the sighting," Quinn said.

Data collection errors are also problematic for Oakmapper. Though the site provides easy ways to detect infected trees, Kelly admits she cannot vouch for the quality of the data.

Another potential pitfall is the inexactness of GPS technology in smart phones. Users of **WhatsInvasive.com** can download an app to report invasive weeds in parks — the GPS coordinates, time of day, and type of weed are immediately uploaded to the server and can be viewed by visitors to the site. But depending on the terrain and the time of day, the coordinates can be up to thirty feet off, according to **Eric Graham**, the associate development engineer at UCLA's Center for Embedded Networked Sensing.

Still, the site affords park rangers and environmentalists a relatively accurate map of invasive species. The first park to test the technology was the **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**. After spending thousands of dollars and a lot of time tracking invasive plants, the park teamed up with WhatsInvasive.com to get hikers and visitors to report weeds. All a hiker needed was a list of plants to watch out for and a smart phone. "They had spent an enormous amount of money hiring people to walk the park and find weeds," said Graham. "It took two years to get the data, and by then it was out of date anyway."

Ken-ichi Ueda developed iNaturalist with a couple of classmates while getting his master's degree at UC Berkeley's School of Information. He sees his site as a tool for a movement that has existed forever. iNaturalist is also coming out with a smart-phone application. He said citizen science web sites will play a vital role. "There aren't enough scientists in the world to collect all the data we need, to track species loss and invasive species. ... And there are so many amateur conservationists in the world recording these observations anyway." ●

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FULL DISCLOSURE

COPS MAKE BANK ON OVERTIME

Two Oakland police officers ensnared in a federal lawsuit involving alleged overtime abuses also are among the highest overtime earners in the city

By Robert Gammon

The **Oakland Police Department** has come under fire recently for demanding that event organizers and nightclub owners pay for costly police overtime. Newly released city records also reveal just how lucrative overtime remains for Oakland cops — even after the city attempted to curtail excessive overtime. Records show that 194 sworn police personnel pocketed at least $20,000 each in overtime in 2010. The biggest overtime earner on the force made more than $100,000. He also happens to be ensnared in a federal civil rights case that involves alleged overtime abuses.

Officer **Michael Morse**, a member of an OPD unit that unilaterally decides how much event organizers and club owners must pay for police overtime, made $118,414 in overtime pay last year. Morse's overtime more than doubled his annual salary of $98,567 and pushed his total 2010 compensation to $244,987. Overtime, in fact, made Morse the eighth highest paid member of the police department last year. Police Chief **Anthony Batts**, who is salaried and does not receive overtime pay, earned $262,429 in total compensation in 2010. The *Express* obtained the pay information through a Public Records Act request.

Morse is also a defendant in a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by former Oakland nightclub owner **Geoffrey Pete**. As this newspaper reported last week, Pete alleges that Oakland police forced him to close **Geoffrey's Inner Circle** in early 2009 after he refused to pay excessive fees for police overtime for cops who patrolled outside his club. Pete contends that OPD began demanding that club owners pay for overtime just weeks after then Mayor **Ron Dellums** announced that taxpayers could no longer afford excessive police overtime charges. Oakland event organizers also are increasingly upset about having to pay police overtime costs and say the high fees are forcing them to scale back the size of festivals or even cancel them.

In his lawsuit, Pete also alleges that police led by Morse canceled his birthday party at **Sweet's Ballroom** in early 2009 after he objected to a demand that he pay eighteen cops a total of $7,626 in overtime. In sworn testimony, Pete said that after OPD made that demand, he complained to Assistant City Administrator **Jeff Baker**. "It was preposterous," Pete said of the overtime demand in a recent interview. "It should have been more like six or seven officers" — not eighteen.

In a sworn deposition, Baker said he raised questions with the department and then Acting Police Chief **Howard Jordan** as to the potential for abuse when OPD decides — with no input or oversight — whether an event needs police overtime and how much the sponsor should pay. "My concern, in addition to it being a large amount of money and no criteria stated, is that the quote is coming from the police department itself. So I'm concerned because it's sort of as if OPD is controlling the entire process. I issue the permit. I set the criteria. I give you the number of cops and I also tell you the price." Baker said that when he asked OPD officials to justify requiring Pete to pay for eighteen cops for his event, they did not respond.

According to court documents, Baker then convinced Jordan to lower the event charges for Pete's birthday by half, and Jordan said Pete would receive a permit from the department. However, when Pete went to the Eastmont Mall substation, Morse refused to comply. Pete testified that Morse told him he wasn't going to get a permit because Morse said he "already had a birthday party." After Pete showed Morse his identification, which revealed that Pete had not yet had his birthday, Morse responded that "the event would not happen," Pete testified.

Pete then went back to Baker, who testified that Jordan had assured him that Pete had a permit for his party and it would take place as planned. So Pete had invitations made up, hired staff and entertainment, ordered food and beverages, paid for advertisements, and paid to rent Sweet's. But then Pete testified that Morse showed up before the event was to begin and directed Pete's staff "to go home" because "there would be no event."

Baker testified that afterward, he called Jordan again to find out what happened, and Jordan said he didn't know Morse's unit had previously refused to issue Pete a permit. "Chief Jordan told me over the telephone that when he told me it was okay for Mr. Pete to have the event he was unaware that there had been a decision regarding the non-issuance of a permit for the event," Baker testified.

Pete believes that OPD targeted him because he refused to start paying for police overtime outside his nightclub. As the *Express* reported last week, there's also strong evidence that another cop, Sergeant **Kyle Thomas**, fabricated a story about Pete's customers after Pete refused to pay police overtime.

Amee Kaddoura of **Downtown Merchant's Garage** testified that Thomas told him there had been a shooting inside the garage, along with drug dealing and fights, involving Pete's nightclub customers, and that police captured it all on tape. Although the garage operators had never before received a complaint about Pete's customers, they said they canceled Pete's long-term garage lease based on what Thomas had said. Unable to offer his customers parking at night, Pete closed his club.

Thomas, however, later admitted under oath that police had not videotaped any illegal activity inside the garage. He also couldn't explain why police had no record of a shooting or fights inside the garage, and said he only told Kaddoura about smelling marijuana. Other police officials said they had left it up to Thomas to decide whether Pete should pay for overtime.

According to city records, Thomas also pocketed big bucks last year from overtime. He made $61,126 in overtime in 2010, pushing his total compensation to $203,400. Neither Thomas nor Morse's total compensation include the costs of health and pension benefits.

The office of City Attorney **John Russo**, which is representing Thomas and Morse in federal court, did not return phone calls seeking comment for this story. In court documents, Russo's office contends that the officers did nothing wrong. Russo's office is moving to dismiss Pete's case in court this week. ●

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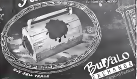

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Richmond City Councilman Tom Butt tends his own herd of goats and sheep. Matt Sumner

THE GREENING OF RICHMOND

The efforts of Councilman Tom Butt could help urban farms change the city's hardscrabble image

By Rebecca Rosen Lum

Roses once grew in vibrant profusion in Richmond, the products of Japanese-American nurseries that thrived from the turn of the 20th century until World War II. Later the remaining greenhouse growers were put out of business by the soaring costs of diesel fuel, and by NAFTA, which rewarded their competitors in Latin America. Weeds and wildflowers now blanket the abandoned greenhouses, and shards of glass litter the ground. But Richmond, long known for its hardscrabble image, may bloom once again thanks largely to the efforts of City Councilman **Tom Butt**.

The struggles that urban farms face in the East Bay have been well documented over the years, but Richmond's experience could prove to be different. Butt, an avid gardener, will soon host an urban farming summit, and his efforts to help urban farmers thrive have the backing of a majority of the Richmond City Council. It's also somewhat unusual for an elected official to take the lead in shepherding urban agriculture projects through the maze of local government. "In general, it's a group of citizens or one farmer" who presses for and wins the changes needed to help urban farmers survive, said **Janelle Orsi**, an Oakland lawyer who pilots the **Sustainable Economies Law Center**.

At home, Butt tends his own herd of three goats and two sheep, and keeps honeybees and grows fruit and vegetables. The career architect describes it as "a large piece of property that's virtually useless because it's essentially vertical." His yard nonetheless is a can't-miss stop each year on the local **Bringing Back the Natives** garden tour.

After a visit to the seven-acre **Sunnyside Organic Seedlings**, which operates in several of the old Richmond greenhouses, Butt came back to his office and fired off a missive announcing the urban farming summit, a brainstorming session that would explore how small farming enterprises could thrive with better access to credit and capital, available land, and markets — plus more cooperation from regulatory agencies. Butt is inviting lawmakers, growers, and urban farming nonprofits to the summit, along with people in the food business, including chefs and restaurateurs.

After contacting **Annie's Annuals**, **EcoVillage Farm**, **The Watershed Nursery**, **Urban Tilth**, **Richmond Library Seed Bank**, **Richmond Garden Club**, and **The Watershed Project**, Butt concluded that they face common challenges. His agenda: identify every urban agriculture operation in West Contra Costa County and create a list of contacts; find potential areas of collaboration among existing organizations that can strengthen the movement; identify regulatory constraints throughout the county that can be modified to benefit urban agriculture; and identify potential markets. "I wasn't raised on a farm, but you know something about fresh fruit and vegetables when you grow up in Arkansas," he said.

An affable man, Butt is plain-spoken and has won over voters with his tough political stances. For years, he was one of the few Richmond city leaders with the courage to stand up to Chevron while the oil giant dominated city politics. But he also has a vision for Richmond, and was talking about smart growth, green energy, and sustainability years before they became part of the modern lexicon. "It frustrates me to no end that most of the food we buy in this country is brought here from someplace else," he said. "Pick a vegetable — let's say broccoli. Guaranteed, somebody is growing broccoli within twenty miles of where you live, but when you go to the store, what you'll buy is broccoli that was grown 1,800 miles away. There's something wrong with this picture here."

People in the urban farming movement say not only is it unusual for an elected official to take the lead in advocating for growing policies, but that local legislators and staff often stymie plans to green urban areas and plow under lawns in favor of food-bearing plants. "A common wish of urban agriculture supporters is for local government officials to be less skeptical about their work," wrote **Jerry Kaufman** and **Martin Bailkey** in a working paper on land policies for the **Lincoln Institute**, a Massachusetts think tank.

Residents who wish to grow food face constraints as well. One said local laws often require uniformity, especially in the front yards of residences. Green lawns and landscaping are believed to promote property values. The City of Berkeley fined a resident in 2009 for growing fruit and vegetables in his front yard, which violated zoning law, she said.

But urban farming proponents say Butt and Richmond enjoy an advantage. A majority of the council shares his vision, including retired sociologist **Jeff Ritterman**, who sits on the board of **Richmond EcoVillage**, a five-acre teaching farm, and **Jovanka Beckles**, who put urban farming in her campaign platform. Mayor **Gayle McLaughlin** also is applauding the summit. The city, she said, can help provide matching funds, which attract private funders, and can write grants.

Butt also is making his push at a propitious time, growers say. The annual **Scion Exchange** by the **California Rare Fruit Growers**, held recently in El Sobrante, "was really swamped with people this year — lots of new people, lots of people from these various other groups, with a lot of cross-fertilization going on," said member **Gail Morrison**. "This frenzy of activity is new in the last year or two."

At Sunnyside Organic Seedlings, **Pilar Reber** sells young plants to large farmers' markets and retailers. She fills trays with her own soil recipe, seeds them using an electric seeder, then wraps stacked trays until they sprout. The company's profits increased by 14 percent last year and are likely to increase by as much again in the coming year. "People are always looking for an emerging market," Reber said. "Here, it is."

But Reber was nearly a casualty of the bureaucratic resistance to urban farming. At one point, a local redevelopment official insisted that she obtain a use permit that required a costly consultation with an architect. But $2,000 and one laid-off employee later, another county staffer told her the use permit was unnecessary. "The county really jerked me around," she said. "We want to make sure people going down this road don't have to deal with this. There are government constraints on this at every level."

Butt also is reaching beyond the city to county lawmakers to help farms in unincorporated areas — like North Richmond, where Sunnyside grows lettuce in an aquaponic garden. "We want to make sure in the county general plan, we support that purpose," said county Supervisor **John Gioia**, who will also participate in the summit. "This is an issue for the greater Richmond area."

Park Guthrie, former director of the nonprofit Urban Tilth, also cheers the idea of a summit that "will get everyone in the same room talking." The challenges facing urban farmers are considerable, he said. "People don't have any idea how hard it is to make it profitable," he said. "With more space you can be more efficient. In urban areas, the biggest cost is land."

On a recent Sunday, volunteers joined staff from Urban Tilth for a workday in a flat, lush meadow, with volunteers preparing the soil for early spring crops: potatoes, mustard greens, spinach, carrots, beets, radishes, chard, arugula, lettuces, and fava beans for the nitrogen they contribute to the soil. Surrounded by a terraced suburb, the property is owned by **Adams School**. Urban Tilth also has a teaching garden at **Richmond High School** that yielded 6,000 pounds of food in just one semester. Its other projects include a medicine garden, watershed, school gardens, and plots along the Richmond Greenway.

Butt said the first summit, scheduled for May, will look at what farmers have done to succeed and then start crafting policy. Eventually, grocers in the Richmond flatlands could be required to carry produce along with chips and pork rinds, he said. "I dream of the day when there is no such thing as a vacant lot," he said. "You either have a building that's fulfilling some important function, or growing food for the community. What an asset." ◆

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MORE TURMOIL IN ALAMEDA

As the special election for a schools parcel tax neared, supporters and opponents exchanged charges of illegality

By Michele Ellson

Whatever the outcome of this week's special election in Alameda, the battle over **Measure A**, the school parcel tax, has been another example of increasing tumult on the island. The opposing sides of the campaign have publicly attacked each other repeatedly. And most recently, they've filed complaints with the state's campaign watchdog, accusing each other of improprieties. Each has denied wrongdoing.

Michael Robles-Wong, chairman of the **Alameda Save Our Schools** (SOS) campaign, the pro-parcel tax group, filed a complaint with the state's **Fair Political Practices Commission** late last month, alleging that the **Committee Against Measure A** illegally issued robocalls that failed to identify to voters who paid for the calls.

The Committee Against Measure A, meanwhile, announced that **Leland Traiman**, one of the leaders of that campaign, had filed an FPPC complaint against two pro-A campaign leaders, the campaign's political consultants, Alameda schools Superintendent **Kirsten Vital**, and **Gray Harris**, the teacher who appears in one of the ads. Traiman claimed the district subsidized Save Our Schools' campaign efforts by providing classroom space and a teacher for a campaign mailer in violation of state law. Representatives with the Committee Against Measure A, however, didn't provide a copy of the complaint when a reporter requested it.

Measure A would replace the school district's existing and soon-to-sunset taxes and increase the amount collected from $7 million to $12 million annually. It requires a two-thirds vote to pass. The outcome may be close because a similar school district measure last June fell just short of the two-thirds requirement, garnering 65.62 percent of the vote. Measure A, however, was crafted with extensive community input, including business owners who did not endorse last year's Measure E. Proponents argued in this year's campaign that Alameda schools will have to endure devastating cuts without the tax measure, while opponents said it was unfair because it gave discounts to some large property owners such as **Alameda Towne Center** and the **Oakland Raiders**.

A spokesperson for the pro-Measure A group called Traiman's claims that the school district subsidized the campaign "baseless" and said the campaign has complied with the law. Vital also denied that the district provided the pro-A campaign either free space or a teacher. She said the campaign requested, paid for, and received a permit to shoot their photos after school hours.

A copy of a permit supplied by the school district shows that the campaign paid a charge of $12.25 to access a room at **Otis Elementary School** for a photo shoot between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on December 9, 2010. The district also supplied a copy of a second permit for another photo shoot at **Alameda High School** on the afternoon of December 10.

"The photos were not taken during the school day and no public funds were used to create the campaign fliers," Vital said. "SOS or any other community organization may apply for use of district facilities pursuant to the Civic Center Act and board policy."

When asked whether Measure A's opponents violated the law with the robocalls, Traiman said that mistakes made by volunteer campaign activists are "understandable," but said no state laws were broken by the Committee Against Measure A because the calls came from out of state. "Robocalls originating in California are prohibited," Traiman noted. "If they originate from outside the state, they are not. California regulators have no jurisdiction over calls which originate from out of state or else those calls would also be prohibited."

He said he paid for the calls independent of the campaign, supplying a reporter with a copy of a to-be-filed disclosure form that listed the calls as an independent expenditure. A recent call received by a reporter at her home included a message saying it had been paid for by Traiman, whereas earlier anti-A calls the reporter received at home did not say who paid for them.

State law prohibits campaigns from making mass phone calls without disclosing who paid for or authorized the calls. Robles-Wong's complaint alleges that Traiman, who is identified in the complaint as the secretary of the Committee Against Measure A, told participants in a February 22 public forum that he paid for the calls, "but that he had not included identifying information because he was being charged by the word and including the identifying information would have been too expensive."

According to the web site of **Winning Calls**, the Colorado-based firm that was used to make the calls, the company requires campaigns that use its services to sign a disclaimer saying they are conducting their campaign legally. An FPPC spokesperson said that while the department can't comment on a specific situation, as a general rule committees are prohibited from contracting with any phone bank vendor that doesn't disclose the information required by state law.

Violations of campaign finance laws carry penalties of up to $5,000 each, the FPPC spokesperson said. The state law that prohibits school districts from supplying funds, services, supplies, or equipment to urge support or defeat of a ballot measure carries a fine of up to $1,000 and possible jail time for violators.

Committee Against Measure A spokesman **David Howard** filed a similar complaint against the school district in 2010 alleging it illegally used public funds to pay for mailers supporting the Measure E parcel tax campaign. The FPPC closed the case without charges, saying that while some of the language used in the mailer was "inflammatory," it didn't "fall squarely within the parameters of a prohibited mailing." ●

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The Oakland Fire Department logged seven residential pot farm fires last year — roughly double the average for 2008 and 2009.

Grow House Hazards

Oakland has been blocked from permitting large pot farms, but small, illegal grows are sparking fires and posing threats to public health and safety

By David Downs

There's an old saying among stoners: "Nobody has ever died from an overdose of smoking pot." But the way things are going in Oakland, it's just a matter of time before someone dies from growing it. And there'll be hell to pay if it's a firefighter.

That reality became harshly apparent last week in West Oakland at a hulking warehouse on Chestnut Street, near I-580. The air was filled with the stench of burnt chemicals, fiberglass, and wood, and there was the unmistakable smell of three hundred to five hundred pot plants that had gone up in smoke that morning. It took eighteen firefighters to get the March 2 conflagration under control.

Later, after the firefighters had extinguished the blaze and gone back to their firehouses, an Oakland police officer watched a lone fire inspector pick through piles of burned up junk, grow lights, [illegible], and the wood used to barricade the front door. The mess had grown soggy on the curb next to a fetid motor home and dog and human excrement. Inside the farm it was pitch black, except for charred lighting equipment.

It wasn't clear what started the fire, and the building's landlord wouldn't talk to this reporter — perhaps because of what else was inside the warehouse. A local tow truck driver on scene said he goes to the building every Wednesday for police auctions of cars towed in the city. Next door to the illegal pot farm, twenty cars sat in the dark, apparently waiting to be auctioned off. Oakland's illegal pot farming is so rampant that it has infected nearly every corner of the city.

It's also at least the second pot farm fire in Oakland this year. At this rate, 2011 might be busier than last year for Oakland firefighters. The department logged seven pot farm fires in homes and apartments in 2010 — roughly double the average for 2008 and 2009. Thankfully, no one has gotten physically injured in a pot farm fire. At least not yet.

But that's not to say that the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of unregulated small and medium-size grows haven't harmed anyone, because they have. Although 2010 stats are not yet available, Oakland police report that for the years 2008 and 2009 combined there were eight robberies, seven burglaries, and two homicides related to cannabis cultivation. And that doesn't include all the crimes involving grows in which no one wants to talk to the cops, let alone fill out a police report.

The public health and safety issues don't stop there. The pot that makes it to market from these unregulated grows is sometimes contaminated with pesticides, molds, and fungi, according to local medical cannabis lab **Steep Hill**. The lab routinely tests pot coming into **Harborside Health Center**, the biggest dispensary in the West, and about 5 percent of the weed has tested positive for unacceptable levels of bacteria under federal health guidelines.

Landlords also have learned the hard way that growers destroy property, leaving behind gutted homes with holes in the floors and ceilings and mold damage on the walls. Unsafe, jerry-rigged wiring often is to blame for fires. Oakland Fire Battalion Chief **Adrian Sheppard** has been to so many pot farm fires in his career, he said, "Dear Lord, I couldn't even give a number on that. It's substantial."

Fire officials and weed brokers also say the number of indoor farms — which can range from a single 1,000-watt light in a closet in an Oakland apartment to 150 lights in a warehouse in the flats — is astounding. Oakland's four medical cannabis dispensaries sold some $28 million of pot in 2009, representing roughly 6,000 pounds of marijuana, which would occupy roughly 45,000 square feet of cultivation space. And that doesn't account for all the pot sold on the black market in Oakland.

Of course, not all indoor farms are dangerous; some growers take great care to be safe. But the explosive growth of small, illegal, and extremely hazardous grow houses was one of the driving forces behind the Oakland City Council's decision last summer to permit four industrial size pot farms. City officials reasoned that bringing the grows out of the shadows and consolidating them into large, legal facilities, and then taxing and regulating them, would greatly limit fires and other hazards.

The council, however, has endured intense blowback over its plan. City Attorney **John Russo**, Alameda County District Attorney **Nancy O'Malley**, and US Attorney **Melinda Haag** all concluded that the council's proposal was illegal. Russo has refused to represent the council as it tries to hammer out a new plan.

But lost in all the intense media coverage of Oakland's controversial pot farm ordinance is this undeniable fact: The current system of small- and medium-size grows is just as illegal as the proposal for large pot farms, maybe even more so, and yet Russo, O'Malley, and Haag seem to have nothing to say about that. Worse, the current system is a powder keg waiting to explode.

And while the Oakland council awaits word from new lawyers on a way forward, the problem continues to grow.

The rapid rise of indoor marijuana farms can be traced to the 1980s, when the Reagan administration launched the **Campaign Against Marijuana Planting**, or CAMP. The program sent government-funded helicopters and cops to backwoods farms in the **Emerald Triangle**, the famed Northern California pot growing region that includes Humboldt and Mendocino counties. The yearly CAMP raids helped push growers indoors, oftentimes into sheds or underground. Diesel generators sometimes power the indoor grows there, to create so-called Diesel Dope, as Humboldt blogger **Kym Kemp** calls it.

The growth of non-soil-based growing mediums — called "hydroponics" — also enabled indoor pot-growing to surge. "Hydroponics is just a more efficient way to do it," said **Richard Lee**, a cannabis historian and founder of **Oaksterdam University** in Oakland. But what made indoor growing really take off, Lee said, "was mostly that people figured out you could use street lights. They figured out you could buy those 400- to 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium and metal halide lights, bring them indoors, and plants would grow real well with them."

The high-intensity lighting and hydroponics also led to increasingly strong strains of pot which by the Nineties, would regularly be called "chronic." The potent weed fetched as high as $6,000 a pound.

Indoor pot got another huge boost in 1996 when California voters passed Proposition 215, which gave medical marijuana users with a doctor's note and their "caregivers" a defense in court against state marijuana laws. That was followed by state Senate Bill 420 in 2004, which further legitimized medical cannabis. In 2008, the burgeoning industry prompted then-Attorney General **Jerry Brown** to develop guidelines. Brown issued a memo requiring dispensaries to operate as nonprofits and limited personal medical marijuana possession to roughly eight ounces and six mature plants.

But theoretically, a grower that was a member of a collective/dispensary could grow thousands of plants for hundreds of patients. And many would try.

Oakland, meanwhile, had become a city very friendly to those who wanted to grow and sell. In 1998, the city declared a state of emergency due to the lack of medical marijuana for its chronically ill residents who often turned to the black market. That year the council also provided federal authorities with a city-sanctioned pot distribution program called the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative. It closed under the threat of a raid.

Oakland officials acknowledge that there is no established structure for medical pot growing in the city.

Still, pot clubs and grow houses began to sprout. Oaksterdam, a collection of pot clubs in the city's Uptown district, became a media sensation. The growth continued in 2004 when Oakland voters passed Measure Z, which instructed Oakland police to make "private adult cannabis use, distribution, sale, cultivation and possession" its lowest enforcement priority.

But the city also decided that the number of dispensaries had gotten out of control and chose to allow just four of them. The other clubs closed down. Looking back, it was a smart move; the city's regulatory scheme became a smash hit. Dispensary sales jumped 40 percent from 2008 to 2009 to $28 million and were an estimated $32 million in 2010. Meanwhile in 2009, 80 percent of voters passed Measure F, which taxed clubs and clearly legitimized their presence in the city. A year later, Oakland voters approved another tax increase on medical cannabis, and pot produced about $1 million in tax revenues last year for the city.

But until 2010, Oakland had yet to address the growing operations, which were becoming increasingly troublesome. "While Oakland and for that matter the state, has a method for dispensing medical cannabis, there is no established structure for its production, growth, and cultivation," Oakland city staff noted in a report to the council last June. "This, combined with the city of Oakland's low-priority enforcement policy, has made it difficult for OPD to enforce within the structure of dispensary collectives."

So while the state had approved medical pot and the city helped spur an industry, no one tackled the issue of where all the weed was coming from. According to **Rick Pfrommer**, buyer for Harborside, a lot of pot is grown in Oakland. "A whole lot," Pfrommer said. "From small growers to warehouses, Oakland produces thousands of pounds a year. The largest grow I've seen had 150 lights."

City staff, meanwhile, has reports of farms "throughout Oakland's industrial areas ranging from 1,500 square feet to 25,000 square feet cultivating for collectives throughout the Northern California region."

Harborside grower John, who didn't want his last name used for this story, has a reputation for managing a safe operation. He told the *Express* that he is one of hundreds of local growers. The Marin County native said he had bounced around

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from job to job before some friends convinced him he could safely and responsibly grow medical pot. "If I could look down from the top of the hills on the East Bay with X-ray vision," he said, "I'd expect to see a constellation of farms covering the area with Oakland and Berkeley pretty well covered."

In his East Bay residence, John has a six-light operation — growers measure the size of their grows in lights, not square footage. His high-pressure sodium lights draw 6,000 watts to feed his growing crop of Strawberry Cough and Sour Kush. John is proud of his "Clean Green" certificate from Steep Hill labs, meaning he uses soil and organic nutrients and no synthetic fertilizers.

John's a star grower at Harborside, but his business isn't as lucrative as one might think. His operation is break-even at best, he said. For starters, he's not stealing electricity like a significant number of other farmers do. He pays $1,500 to $2,000 a month in electricity bills, which eats into his profits. "A lot of people are jumping the power box," he said. "People know no electrician that can do it for them. I thought about it, but it's stupid. It's a felony."

"Jumping the power box" is when a grower rewires the building around the PG&E meter so that he can use as much power as he wants free of charge. It's dangerous, and illegal. In fact, somebody burned down a house in his neighborhood, John said. "A lot of people are doing that," he said about starting illegal grows. "They only have enough money to plug a few lights in. They have paper walls and an electrician doing an official job."

John says growers during the Great Recession started to come from all walks of life — from former business people to gangbangers

John's a star grower at Harborside, but his operation isn't as lucrative as one might think.

and old hippies and their offspring taking over the family business. Many are amateurs trying to get in on a new bubble in the wake of the real estate bust. "It's mostly a money grab," he said. "I'd say a lot of people hit by the recession have tried to jump into this thing. A lot of them have tried and failed."

The rash of new growers also has put pricing and quality pressure on existing ones, including John. Prices are down to roughly $3,000 per pound for top-shelf weed, a far cry from the glory days.

But that's also one of the reasons why John and others believe full legalization — which would crash the price and remove the incentive to home grow — is the only real solution to Oakland's problems. After all, Oakland home brewers aren't burning down their apartments attempting to make easy money off beer and whiskey.

"People are trying to get warehouses, nice houses in the Oakland hills with a basement, sheds in Fruitvale, wherever they can," John said of pot growers. "One guy had a huge place in the El Cerrito hills and had converted the whole thing. Very few are trying to make it a legitimate business. Little gangbangers are trying to turn these houses into grows, they tape up all the windows, fill them with plants and pot bulls, and they blow up."

Oakland Fire Battalion Chief Sheppard isn't normally the first person into a building consumed with fire, but he was on the morning of Saturday, January 29. It was a pot farm in East Oakland.

When responding to a blaze, a firefighter's first priority is rescue. So when he enters what is usually a smoke-spewing, pitch-black room, he has a mental map in his head of how a typical residence or warehouse is laid out. Risk typically increases if the fire is at night. Once a fighter has established that it's a "working fire," and has gotten occupants out, a team works to confine the fire to its area of origin, extinguish it, and perform salvage and overhaul.

But pot farm blazes complicate a firefighter's job immensely. Growers often remove or add walls inside a home, or they wall off and barricade a section of a warehouse. As a result, a firefighter's standard training and mental map become worthless. Not only could the building have dead ends and booby traps, but the grower also probably has altered the electrical system. When the fire department shuts off the power to the house, the power may not actually be off.

"The building is consumed with fire and smoke and there's tons of hazards," Sheppard said. "The greater threat comes from the jerry-rigging of electrical components. You've got batteries. You've got generators, illegal electricity being boosted from other houses and facil

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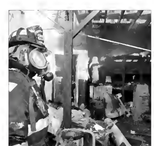

Pot farm blazes complicate a firefighter's job immensely. Buildings can have dead ends and booby traps.

ties. We think we've turned off the electricity and when we start deconstructing an area of the building we come across wires that are still electrically charged."

Modifications to the house also can thwart a firefighter's ability to properly ventilate a fire, Sheppard said. Heavily reinforced doors — a hallmark of grows — make it difficult to get inside. Sheppard has seen portions of a home's floor cut out so that the grower can drop a bathtub in place. The bathtub, filled with water, then serves as a hydroponics system with water hoses strung throughout the residence — "meaning you've got hot wires and pools of water," Sheppard said.

It turned out that the January 29 fire was caused by an unattended cigarette. In the apartment at 1938 104th Avenue, firefighters also found a loaded gun, which is typical. "Now you've got ammo inside a fire," Sheppard noted. Inside, the grow also had a pit bull with a fresh litter of puppies. **Oakland Animal Services** ended up euthanizing the pit and the puppies, in part because of smoke inhalation.

When firefighters encounter a grow they call the police. The owner of this particular farm had been in and out of a correctional facility, Sheppard said. But technically, the grower had fewer plants than the city's legal limit. The presence of a gun and the felony jumping of the power might be cause for complaint, but Sheppard didn't know if police had charged him. Police did not respond to a request for information about the incident.

For the fire department, though, it was a relatively minor incident compared with some grows Sheppard has seen in the Oakland hills, where seclusion is an asset. "It's more expensive up there, there's less traffic, mostly people keep to themselves," Sheppard said. Growers in the hills will convert entire two-story homes, adding ventilation and battery units. They'll build boxes around exterior windows to create the illusion of a normal room inside.

The fire department takes pains to avoid talking politics, but Deputy Chief **James Williams** said "The reason that building and fire codes exist is to prevent fires from occurring, and if there are people violating the building codes and fire codes, it may contribute to the ignition and growth of fires. Our main goal and our number one priority is to prevent fires and emergencies from occurring, and the best way to ensure that is to make sure people have properly functioning smoke detectors in homes and are not participating in activity that is illegal and that is not in line with applicable building and fire codes."

Oakland has laws that regulate things like altering the electrical wiring in a home, making structural changes, using residential property for commercial activity, and handling hazardous materials like pesticides and fertilizers. No medical marijuana law supersedes those regulations. Yet code enforcement is not exactly Oakland's strong suit, and the city lacks funds for any new campaign. Still, finding the money to merely enforce existing city codes could significantly reduce the risk to public safety from pot farming.

In July 2010 the Oakland City Council went searching for that money. It approved a plan to permit, tax, and regulate up to four large-scale farms with no cap on size. The effort was expected to raise millions of dollars in annual tax revenue for the struggling city. The new legitimate supply of pot would have theoretically reduced the price, thereby forcing many illegal home growers out of work. The

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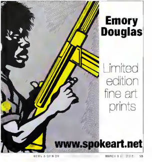

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proposal also would have generated enough funds so that city inspectors would have the resources to shut down dangerous grows.

Since then, however, City Attorney Russo, DA O'Malley, and US Attorney Haag have concluded that Oakland's plan would have violated state law. On February 1, Haag made it clear in a letter to Russo that federal authorities could come after commercial-scale pot producers whether they held permits or not. The federal government could also seize farm properties as part of vigorous enforcement against "unlawful manufacturing and distribution activity involving marijuana, even if such activities are permitted under state law," Haag wrote.

Law enforcement's chief concern typically has been about "diversion." That is, all that Oakland pot probably wouldn't stay medical for long. They worried that the large farms would end up supplying the local black market and shipping to states that have yet to legalize cannabis for medical needs.

But what law enforcement appears to be ignoring is that small illegal growers in Oakland are already selling pot on the black market. The council's plan also would have finally put some of those growers out of business. "I know people that have shipped pounds out to New York, Miami, and Atlanta because they couldn't sell it around here," John said.

In Mendocino County, officials have apparently figured out a way to regulate growers without running afoul of the feds. Last year, county supervisors quietly rolled out a system to permit medical marijuana grows of significant size. All grows are under 99 plants, and growers must pay $1,500 to apply for a permit and pass a background check with the local sheriff's department.

Permitted growers must then submit to a $500 farm inspection with a third-party certifier — like a smog check — and buy $50 zip ties for each plant from the city. The zip-tie system discourages diversion, while permit, inspection, and zip-tie fees fund the program.

At a medical cannabis conference in Berkeley in January, Mendocino County Supervisor **John McCowen** said that he received three calls from the **Drug Enforcement Administration** about the county's program, and after the DEA officials reviewed it, they went away.

The key difference between Mendocino and Oakland seems to be the scale of permitted farming and the amount of publicity around it. Colorado and Arizona are also setting up state-permitted grows, but with much less fanfare. By contrast, Oakland's mega pot farms, which would be the first in the state, fed media hype and drew a huge target on the city's back.

Last month, Russo announced that his office would no longer help the council craft a viable ordinance. The move came two months after the council had stopped the permit process for the large pot farms and abandoned the law it passed last July. The city council is now paying an outside law firm, **Meyers Nave**, to help it rewrite the city's ordinance. A report is due out this month.

In late January, Councilwoman **Desley Brooks** submitted a rough proposal for a new law that attempts to address some of the legal issues raised by Russo, O'Malley, and Haag. One of their primary concerns is that state law requires the grower, the dispensary, and the patient to belong to the same collective. And the main reason the law that the council approved last July was likely illegal was that it allowed the large farms to sell to more than one collective. It's also one of the key reasons why some small farms currently in operation in Oakland are illegal, too.

Brooks' proposal attempts to solve the problem by requiring that each large farm also has a dispensary and by forcing growers to only provide cannabis for their dispensary's patients — and no one else. However, her plan also appears to have two problems. First, it would allow grows of up to 50,000 square feet, which is more than the total amount of space needed by all of the city's current dispensaries. And second, it would be difficult under her plan to determine how big a grow should be if the dispensary has yet to open and doesn't have any patients.

Brooks declined to comment on the specifics of her proposal and said that she submitted it merely as a placeholder for further discussion. **Jason Overman**, spokesman for Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan**, who coauthored last year's ordinance, said: "Kaplan is open to further discussing size and scope. ... We're not committed to a particular figure. The square-footage element and the scalability of farms with dispensaries will be something that I expect Meyers Nave will likely comment on when they produce general recommendations later this month. It's fair to say the council is open to amending that number."

The issue may also be dealt with more swiftly at the state level, Overman noted. Two bills to regulate pot production were introduced last month in Sacramento by Senators **Lou Correa** and **Ron Calderon** of Southern California.

But **Robert Raich**, a local cannabis lawyer who helped take a medical cannabis case to the US Supreme Court, believes Oakland should regulate its existing small- and medium-size growers before turning to large ones. "Focusing all its attention on those huge farms was a mistake," he said. The city, he added, should pursue a program like Mendocino, with third-party inspections on any farm bigger than 150 square feet. "Gardeners in Oakland want to comply with reasonable rules and are happy to pay taxes, they just don't have a way to legitimize themselves."

But does the city have the money to launch such a program and force the small hazardous grow houses out of business? Mayor **Jean Quan** and the council are currently grappling with a projected $46 million deficit next year. In addition, the state Legislature may approve Governor **Jerry Brown**'s plan to kill redevelopment agencies soon, a move that would further devastate Oakland's finances.

And without some viable plan, the bad actors in Oakland's underground pot-growing scene continue to spark fires throughout the city. John said some of the grows he's seen are dungeons. "You got mold on all the walls, pest infestations, beds with rat inside them, cutting leaves and electrical wires through puddles of water," he said. "That sort of thing is obviously some amateur-hour shit that I'd rather see taken away. A lot of pot on the shelf is the farthest thing from medical that you can possibly imagine.

"I think the discussion is going to be ongoing and volatile, and when the dust settles, I hope people come up with a rational answer to this whole mess," he continued. "And I hope they do it in the interest of the public good." ◆

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

The scene at Kitty's during happier days

Photo: [illegible]

CULTURE SPY

THE DEMISE OF KITTY'S

A month ago, the Emeryville bar and dance club was on the upswing. Then one fight destroyed everything.

By Rachel Swan

When **Kitty Faris** first opened her Emeryville bar in December of 2005, it seemed like an auspicious move. Though the location at 67th and Hollis streets seemed a bit off the beaten path, there was plenty of parking and few residents nearby to complain. The building itself was beautiful. A former smokehouse and cannery, it had a huge front patio and exposed brick walls. "My whole thing was that it be a cross between the **Ruby Room** and **César** in Berkeley," she explained. In the first month after the bar's inception that seemed like an accurate characterization.

But as the bar got more popular it turned into a dance club, and its clientele changed accordingly. Then last month, shortly after Kitty's celebrated its fifth anniversary, a single incident put the whole business in jeopardy. Early Friday morning, February 4, an argument between two patrons escalated to a full-out brawl. Faris was working the bar that night and said that it started as an altercation between two women. By the time the police came, it had spiraled out of control. According to Faris, of about one hundred people at the bar that night, roughly one-third got embroiled in the melee.

But even worse than the fight itself was the aftermath. Local media outlets — including the *Express* — widely reported that up to 180 people had been involved in the brawl and that some patrons brandished knives and guns, a fact that Faris disputes. Worse yet, the bar's cabaret license was up for renewal. Emeryville police Chief **Ken James** made it known that he would discuss the incident with the Emeryville City Council, which had the power to decide whether or not to renew the bar's cabaret license. "It was really bad timing," Faris said.

She tried doing damage control. That day, Kitty's co-owner **Bill MacBeath** dropped off the license application in person, while Faris called Chief James to schedule a meeting. But the following week, they received a letter saying that the bar's cabaret permit had expired, and that it was currently operating illegally because MacBeath hadn't submitted his necessary tax return. The owners would have to stop operating as a dance club immediately or risk a hefty fine or possible misdemeanor. Faris and MacBeath scrambled to gather the missing information, but were told they wouldn't be able to get their license renewed until the city council heard their case, which would be no earlier than April. And the future doesn't bode well, says Emeryville police captain **LaJuan Collier**.

Officially, Kitty's was denied its cabaret permit because of paperwork, but Collier said it was due to other factors. "It was an accumulation of crime, noise complaints, and other things," Collier said. "But it was mainly this fight."

According to Collier, residents grouse periodically about noise associated with Kitty's, although Faris says that a lot of those complaints came from across town. The police also cited an episode last year when a patron fired a gun outside the bar. To preempt further problems, Emeryville cops began stationing themselves outside Kitty's on busy nights, waiting for the crowd to spill out after last call.

MacBeath said a lot of these issues are actually side effects of having a cabaret license in the first place. Kitty's started off as a small independent venture. The owners — Faris, a long-time KALX DJ and third-generation Oaklander, and MacBeath, whose parents owned **The Ivy Room** in Albany — had a real sense of rootedness in the neighborhood, and a mom and pop sensibility. But Kitty's became the type of dance venue that you'd find in a larger metropolitan area, like downtown Oakland or San Francisco. "When you start off, you have a nice bar, your friends come and play records and people dance," he said. "Then they come and tell you that you need a cabaret permit for this. You have to hire this amount of security, your capacity is this much, and the security have to have uniforms." He continued: "... And regular people don't want to come any more because now it's a club."

In Emeryville the terms "cabaret" and "dance hall" are pretty all-encompassing. According to the municipal code, any club that hosts live entertainment or permits dancing needs to have a cabaret license. The associated fees aren't that high, Faris said. You don't have to be a club's kind of bar just to make a return on your investment. And the owners say they didn't necessarily intend to be the kind of club that requires a dress code and a roped line outside. It just happened that way. Kitty's DJs wanted to placate patrons by spinning pop and Top 40 hip-hop. Since it was the only dance club in Emeryville, word of mouth spread pretty fast.

"The bar has always been two different bars," Faris explained. "You have an after-work crowd, then you have a night crowd." As the night crowd got bigger, Emeryville cops got more vigilant. The city took away two parking spots in front of the bar so that police could see the line of people going in. The cops asked Faris to make patrons line up behind a rope. They also wanted her security guards to wear black shirts with white block lettering, so they would be easy to identify. Then they encouraged Faris to change the type of music the bar played.

"Whenever they tell us to do something that makes sense, we'll do it," Faris said, explaining why she took it upon herself to turn Kitty's into a world music club. Last summer the owners started doing a Cuban salsa night and playing more reggaeton. Gradually, they began eroding the club crowd, and replacing it with more of a multicultural crowd. Faris was even planning to host a bi-weekly lesbian party called Butta. She said she took a hit financially in November and December but began recovering in January. The noise complaints abated and it looked like Kitty's was on the upswing.

But now, Faris and MacBeath have found themselves in a perilous situation. Without a cabaret license, they're unable to have DJs, or any form of entertainment, for that matter — which they say is crucial to their survival. "The cabaret license thing forbids us from doing a lot of stuff," Faris said. "We can't do comedy nights or karaoke. We've got our hands tied." She and MacBeath had to lay off all their DJs and bouncers, cutting the staff down to a skeleton crew of six people. Faris says in the last month she's lost two-thirds of her business. It's questionable whether Kitty's will survive at all.

"People know us as a place to go at night for DJs and dancing," she said. "They've never considered my bar a place to just hang out and play a board game." At this point, though, she thinks a miracle would have to happen for Emeryville to renew the cabaret license. So maybe rebranding is in order. Faris laughed dejectedly at the thought. "Hey — we're a bar with no DJs. Come hang out and ... talk?" ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Step Right Up

East Bay artist George Chen's latest venture isn't just another variety show: it's a soul-searching mission

George Chen needs a good analogy. Or at least a concise way to describe what he does. It's not easy, because Chen is involved with the local arts scene through just about every avenue imaginable. He currently plays in three different bands (one of which, **Kit**, will be embarking on a European tour this spring). He's booked shows for Club Sandwich and the San Francisco Electronic Music Festival, and in August will help program the Berkeley Art Museum's L@te series. He freelances for several local publications (including the *Express*) and contributes to three different blogs. Since 2008 he has dabbled in the standup and storytelling scenes, performing at the Porchlight series and at places like Mama Buzz Cafe. Up until this week he also held a day job as a publicist at Alternative Tentacles Records, but recently quit in order to pursue a full-time career in what he describes as "whatever warped bonzai version of show business that exists in the East Bay."

George Chen Sean Gorman

All of this does not necessarily lend itself to business-card-length descriptions or easy comparisons. "I generally don't spend too much time worrying myself or trying to put what I do in a box, but this is about the time it's starting to happen," he said.

Semantic difficulties aside, though, Chen's omnivorous approach to the East Bay's arts scene has made his latest venture, the **George Chen Variety Show** this Friday, March 11, at the **Saturn Cafe** (2175 Allston Way, Berkeley), a natural next step. It's no accident that the show happens the very same week that Chen officially steps off the cliff and abandons the comfort of a day job to pursue the life of a full-time artist. "I'm really in a transitional moment right now, so I'm just trying out everything that seems interesting," he said. He's not just looking for a sound bite to give to his parents and the people he meets at parties, he's trying, he said, to use his newfound free time to really figure things out — to "answer [the] question, 'What *do* I do?'" To that end, the variety show is a logical way to combine his interests and bring his disparate connections together under one roof. For the show's format and tone, he drew from a characteristically broad set of inspirations — late-night talk shows, podcasts, old-school TV variety hours, the fanzines he grew up reading as a kid. The entertainment itself will be provided by various acquaintances of Chen's from all corners of the arts and culture universe. Musician **Erica Anderson**, formerly of Geneva, will perform as EMA. Chen and **Alec Karim** will do stand-up. There will be a game-show-esque component in the form of the so-called Leonard Maltin game, a movie trivia competition popularized by one of Chen's favorite podcasts, Doug Benson's *Doug Loves Movies*. Other friends of Chen's — punk rocker-turned-vegan-chef **Joshua Ploeg**, artist **Christy Chan**, filmmaker **Sarah Lockhart**, and Chen-described "raconteur" **Dianne Martinez** — will conduct presentations and informal interviews with each other. He's keeping things minimal and cheap, adopting a DIY ethos. The end result is something like a live-human magazine, or the coolest, most interesting dinner party you've ever been to, or a sort of 21st-century arts-and-entertainment circus, with Chen as the ringmaster. Call him P.T. Barnum. 8 p.m., $5. SpaceLounge.SaturnCafe.com

— *Ellen Cushing*

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

2011 Outstanding Berkeley Women Awards Annual awards ceremony, presented by the City of Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women. Mon., March 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

25th Anniversary of Tikkun Magazine With presentations by Founding Editor Rabbi Michael Lerner, Founding Publisher Nan Fink Gefen, and more. Mon., March 14, 6:30-10:30 p.m., free. Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-0000. Berkeley.edu.

HUG (Help Us Give Uganda) Fundraising Event With live music, a silent art auction, a raffle, kids' proceeds, food vendors, Linden Street beers, and more. All proceeds will be sent to the Hope Home Orphanage in the Iganga district of Uganda. For more information, see helpugandakids.org. Sat., March 12, noon. $5-$10. Linden Street Brewery, 95 Linden St., Oakland.

[illegible] East Bay Film [illegible] spotlighting films made by [illegible] filmmakers and [illegible] issues. Screening will be followed by a discussion with [illegible] of the filmmakers. Sat., March 12, 7:30-10 p.m., $10-$50. El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 510-528-0734.

[illegible] [illegible] Cultural Center's major fundraising event of the year. [illegible], call [illegible] at 510-848-2688 ext 17. Mon., March 14, 6:30 p.m., $35 minimum donation. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Slingshot Newspaper Collective 23rd Birthday Party With food, music, a [illegible] history of the project, door prizes, and the presentation of the 2011 annual Golden Slingshot Award for lifetime achievement. Sun., March 13, 7 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

KIDS

Coyote Hills presents Parklore leads a monthly class introducing kids 3-5 to the natural world in a hands-on way. Registration required, space is limited. Third Tuesday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-4 p.m., residents $6, nonresidents $8. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

Oakland Mic Youth Speaks presents a monthly open mic for ages 21 and under, hosted by [illegible] Clay and Katy [illegible] and featuring [illegible]. [illegible] Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. 415-255-9035. YouthSpeaks.org. Oakland Art Gallery, 199 Kahn's Alley, Oakland. 510-637-0365. OaklandArtGallery.org.

The World's Funniest Theatre [illegible] presents live, family-friendly show from The Amazing [illegible]. Mon. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through April 3. $8-$11. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4540. TheMarsh.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Illuminations: Celebrating Oakland O'Grady Gala benefiting the Crowden Music Center and celebrating former Mayor Oakland O'Grady with proceeds, dinner, silent and live proceeds, and musical performances. Sat., March 12, 5:30 p.m., $200. Yount-way Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. Crowden.org.

International Women's Day Celebration With a potluck dinner, speeches, and spoken-word presentations. Sat., March 12, 6-8 p.m., free. Bethel [illegible] Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Strides and Strollers Walking Club Naturalist-led educational walking tours for parents and their kids (under 2 1/2 years old). Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Continues through March 15. $75. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

"Sound of Sports" Celebrity Charity Soccer Match With a raffle, silent auction, live music by [illegible], and more, and a soccer match featuring celebrity players Luis Martinez, Aaron Hunter, [illegible], and more. 20 percent of proceeds will be donated to Playworks. Sat., March 12, 12:30-11 p.m., free-$10. [illegible] College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. 510-485-5200.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

UC Women's Tennis vs. [illegible] Tue., March 15, 1:30 p.m., $5. Hellman Tennis Center, North St. & Frank Schlessinger Wy., Berkeley. 510-642-0580. CalBears.com/Tennis/Hellman-Tennis-Complex.html.

Soccer: [illegible] Fields Match Days Sundays, 11. Central Cove Fields, 1080 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-558-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

PICKS

Benefit for Ugandan Orphans

If there's any possible downside to spending a Saturday afternoon drinking, it's the fundamental self-loathing of it all. Behold: **Linden Street Brewery's benefit for Ugandan orphans**, which offers all the boozing with none of the guilt. The party goes down Saturday, Mar. 12, at the brewery's West Oakland headquarters (95 Linden St., Oakland) and features Slim sommeliers, a silent art auction, kids' activities aplenty and, of course, beer for sale. All proceeds go to an undeniably good cause: the Hope Home Orphanage in the Iganga district of the war- and disease-ravaged African country. Noon-5 p.m., $5-$10. 510-735-6907 or HelpUgandaKids.org — *Ellen Cushing*

Stephen Curry

St. Stupid's Art Show

Inspiration for fine art comes from lots of places. Love is, obviously, a trope, as is loss. Violence, identity, family, stupidity? Not so much. But that's not stopping the folks behind St. Stupid's Art Show, opening at Rhythmix Cultural Works K Gallery (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda) on Friday, Mar. 11, at 6 p.m. Anchored around April Fool's Day, the exhibit features work in various media — including film, drawing, sculpture, and painting — by a slate of artists including Jon Sasson, William Sasson, Julian Kings Carmen, and d'Arel Bruno. Through Apr. 30, free. 510-865-5060 or Rhythmix.org — *KC*

Golden State Warriors

Spring is a prime time for the East Bay sports scene as our professional basketball team is nearly as ephemeral. Although the **Golden State Warriors** had all of February and a huge homestand to hook us, now they're fading slowly into the depths of the Western Conference. But the Warriors still have a loose grip on the local sports scene — at least until the baseball season begins. This weekend, the team hosts two cross-country foes at the **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland): the **Orlando Magic** on Friday, Mar. 11 at 7:30 p.m., and the **Minnesota Timberwolves** on Sunday, Mar. 13 at 6 p.m. The Warriors are pretty far back in the playoff hunt and will likely spend the warmer months watching their betters play on. If you want a last blast of winter misery, would enjoy your company this weekend. 800-843-[illegible] 1-888-479-4667 or NBA.com/warriors — *Kibby Kleiman*

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

The Walking Cure

John Muir the scientist, revisited

Tony Bellaver's Inventoried Range of Light.

"I never before saw a plant so full of life, so perfectly spiritual. It seemed pure enough for the throne of its Creator. I felt as if I were in the presence of superior beings who loved me and beckoned me to come. I sat down beside them and wept for joy. Could angels in their better land show us a more beautiful plant?" So rhapsodized John Muir about a flower that he observed while rambling in his beloved outdoors. A tireless champion for a wilderness that he believed to be divinely created, spiritually redemptive, and worthy of protection from Gilded Age laissez-faire industrial expansion, Muir saw getting back to the land at least occasionally as balm for "thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people" — a judgment shared by contemporary visitors to the Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks seeking their own "mountain baptism."

Muir's humbler love of plants, however, is the focus of ***Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy***, a **California Exhibition Resources Alliance** traveling show debuting in Walnut Creek, not far from Muir's final home in Martinez (now John Muir National Historic Site). For five years, biographer **Bonnie Gisel** scoured the herbaria (specimen collections) of botanical gardens, natural history museums, universities, and national parks for specimens that Muir had collected over a fifty-year span — in Canada, Indiana, the American South, California, and Alaska — some still bearing Muir's handwritten annotations. Nearly 200 of those specimens have been photographically scanned and restored — repairing the damage from fading, breakage, and acid burn — by Pleasant Hill nature photographer **Stephen Joseph**, so that they now resemble what Muir saw and collected. Twenty-three are on display: the Lady's Slipper (Ontario, 1864), mentioned above; a Washington Lily and California Polypod (Sierra Nevada, 1875); a Pygmy Buttercup (Siberia, 1881); an Engelmann Spruce (British Columbia, 1879); Sea Oats (Florida, 1898); a Fivespot (Yosemite, 1907). It's a solitary walker's family album: "Are not all plants beautiful? Would not the world suffer by the banishment of a single weed?" Also included are blowup photos of Muir's journal entries, including a sketch of Muir in Florida hiking regalia saluting a cabbage palmetto tree. A beautifully produced catalog is available.

Also on view is a related show entitled ***Inventoried Range of Light: Explorations on the John Muir Trail***. **Tony Bellaver** spent a month trekking the 211-mile John Muir Trail from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney, bringing back an "inventory of moments": spectacular photographs of landscapes and animal life edited into a sumptuous video, insect samples (taken from authorized locations), and journals, both scientific and artistic. *Nature's Beloved Son* runs through March 27 at **Bedford Art Gallery** (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek). 925-295-1417 or BedfordGallery.org.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

PICKS

Reckewell/Romaine

Sabine Reckewell and **Dianne Romaine** prove that minimalism can transcend its restricted means. Reckewell's *Linearis* installations, reconstructions of earlier works (depicted in drawings also shown here), create op-art forms in space with string and wool yarn hung from bars or sets of evenly spaced nails on adjacent corner walls. With their catenary curves, "Angle Into Curve (Claremont Studio)" and "Installation with Black String (Claremont Studio)" evoke topographic landscapes, but scanned and graphed — magically abstracted into data. Romaine's untitled, numbered acrylic *Flux* paintings give the stain techniques of Color Field painting a retro, scientific spin, their dark brown pigment suggesting sepia ink and early photographs. The orbs painted on wet canvas, whether seen close-up and personal or at a remove, in huge clusters, diffuse into soft-edged blooms that evoke both the cellular and the stellar. *Linearis* and *Flux* run through March 19 at **Chandra Cerrito Contemporary** (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-260-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*

Detail of Dianne Romaine's "Flux."

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: As You Wish... Totems and dolls by Lisa Clarkson, Paul Laughridge, Jill Lowe, Susan Taylor, and [illegible]. Through March 26. 1652 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

[illegible] Pub: Museum of Nature Paintings by Hallie Steele. Through April 30. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. [illegible]Pub.com.

Bedford Gallery: Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy Botanical specimens and photography by Stephen Joseph. Through March 27. $5. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Identity Work focused on the theme of "identity" by students from various Berkeley public schools. Through March 20. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: [illegible] Photography by [illegible]. Through April 30. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Gallery: Encounters Photography by [illegible]. Through April 1. 456 11th St., [illegible], Oakland. [illegible].

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Linearis Work by Sabine Reckewell. Through March 19. **Flux** Acrylic paintings by Dianne Romaine. Through March 19. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

David Brower Center: [illegible]: Ecological Art @ Practice Work by Daniel McCormick. Through May 11. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Doug Adams Gallery: [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]: Responses @ [illegible] from the [illegible] to the Present Retrospective of art inspired by and [illegible]. With an opening reception Thurs., Jan. 27, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Through March 11. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley.

El Cerrito City Hall: Oakland Abstractions Work by Janine [illegible]. Through April 8. 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. El-Cerrito.org.

Expressions Gallery: All You Need Is Love Group show featuring work by Elizabeth [illegible], [illegible], and many others. Through March 25. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

[illegible] Center: [illegible] Black-and-white photography by Cathy [illegible] and [illegible]. Through March [illegible]. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-[illegible]. [illegible].

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] Drawings by John [illegible]. March 12-27. Free. 3118 Wheeler St., Berkeley.

Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center: [illegible] Work by Will [illegible] and Rebecca [illegible]. Through March 26. 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

The Hive Gallery: 108 Interdisciplinary work by Marlene White. March 11-April 1. 301 Jefferson St., Oakland. 510-212-8729.

Johansson Projects: Lost Revision Work by Eric [illegible]. March 10-April 23. **[illegible]** An installation by [illegible] Short. March 10-April 23. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Level to Level Multimedia work by Eric [illegible] Morgan. Through March 12. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden: Sueños y Pesadillas: Saints and Nightmares Paintings by [illegible] Barber. With an opening reception Fri., Mar. 11, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Through May 2. Free. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible].

Kala Gallery and Art Institute: Paintings of Moments Drawings and collage by Sonya Rapoport. With an opening reception Fri., Mar. 4, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., and an artist's talk Sat., Mar. 26, 2 p.m. Through April 9. Free. **Paintings of Moments** Work by Sonya Rapoport, curated by [illegible]. Through April 9. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

[illegible] + Art, Art Seeks [illegible] Month-long assemblage and sculpture by Lily [illegible]. With receptions Fridays, Feb. 4 and Mar. 4, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through March 26. 487 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

MacArthur B Arthur: [illegible] Group show [illegible]. Through March 27. 4030 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. www.macarthurbarthur.com.

Oakland [illegible] Gallery: [illegible] Artist's Multiples by [illegible], Kathleen [illegible], P.K. [illegible], and others. Through Nov. 27. **Inside Out** Work by P.K. [illegible]. Through March 26. **Encounters with Light** Photography and mixed-media work by Mary Curtis Ratcliff. Through March 26. **The March at Noon** Work by students at the California College of the Arts. Through March 26. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Landscapes Real and Reflected Paintings by Michael [illegible]. Through March 15. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-[illegible].

Mills [illegible] Female Video installation by [illegible]. Through March 13. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

MOCHA: Museum of Children's Art: [illegible] With work by young artists from across the country. Through March 20. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

NIAD Art Center: [illegible] With work by [illegible] across the country as well as by those from [illegible] studio program. Through March 18. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Oakopolis Creativity Center: People Collected Photography by Ron [illegible]. Through March 12. 447 25th St., Oakland.

Pro Arts Gallery: 8 x 8 Salon: [illegible] Paintings, curated by [illegible]. Through April 3. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Slate Contemporary Art and Framing Gallery: [illegible] Photography by [illegible]. Through April 15. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio Quercus: Impressions From the [illegible] Print Shop: The Famous, The Not So [illegible], and The Totally [illegible] Work by various artists [illegible] with the California College of the Arts. Through April 16. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. StudioQuercus.com.

Townsend Center: [illegible] Paintings by Matthew [illegible]. Through May 13. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] Sculpture by Nancy [illegible]. March 13-May 1. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-1214. [illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible] Paintings by [illegible]. Through March 20. [illegible] 3rd Street, Berkeley. ●

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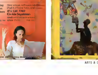

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Zellerbach Hall

Lucretia is the last honorable woman remaining as Ancient Rome descends into depravity and corruption threatens all around her. Written in 1946, Britten's first chamber opera is a tour-de-force of his most ravishingly beautiful music.

Albert Herring
Sat, March 26, 8 pm; and Sun, March 27, 3 pm
Zellerbach Hall

A tragicomic opera with a lightness of touch rarely found in Britten's work, [illegible] features [illegible] Bay Area favorite soprano Nancy Gustafson as Lady Billows.

For full casting details, visit calperformances.org

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
JUDITH JAMISON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Masazumi Chaya, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Robert Battle, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

Tue–Sun, March 29–April 3, Zellerbach Hall

The incomparable Ailey company celebrates the 50th anniversary of Alvin Ailey's landmark *Revelations*.

Program A (3/29, 4/1 and 4/3): Hoggard: *Anointed*, music by Moby and Sean Clements **(Bay Area premiere)**; Battle: *The Hunt*, music by Les Tambours du Bronx **(Bay Area premiere)**; Ailey: *Cry*, set to music by Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro and Chuck Griffin; *Revelations*

Program B (3/30, 4/2 mat): Battle: *In/Side*, set to music by Dmitri Tiomkin, sung by Nina Simone; Jamison: *Forgotten Time*, music by Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares; Ailey: *Three Black Kings*, music by Duke and Mercer Ellington **(Bay Area premiere)**; *Revelations*

Program C (3/31, 4/2 eve): Horton: *The Prodigal Prince*; Ailey: *Memoria*, music by Keith Jarrett; *Revelations*

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Be Funny With Frank Nelson. Written by Christopher Higgins and featuring DJ Adel Dee. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland, TheNewParish.com.

The Business Featuring local headliners Sean Keane, Alex Koll, Ronny Simpson, and Clare Garcia, with rotating guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St., San Francisco, 415-401-7987, DarkRoomSF.com.

Comedy Night Hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 7 p.m. free. Brainwash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-3663, BrainWash.com.

Berkeley Blue Hosted by [illegible] Gant with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m., [illegible] Rockit Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco, 415-387-6344, RockitRoom.com.

Joe Albion With Candy Chutila and [illegible], hosted by Caitlin Gill. Presented by City of Berkeley recreation programs. Sat., March 12, 8:30-10 p.m., $8. Live Oak Albion, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 800-641-1480.

Johnny Buzan With Joe Figueroa, Rayen Ohanti, and Jasel Anolin, hosted by Joe Gordon and Samson Koletar. Fri., March 11, 8-10 p.m., $10. Mess Pearls Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland, 510-844-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Jokes 'n Java Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Fourth and Second Friday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Woody's Cafe, 1843 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-893-0101, WoodysCafe weekly [illegible].

Magic & More! With Big Al Catraz & Franco [illegible] bringing you an elevated theater performance of magic and comedy guests. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $20. [illegible] Theater Stage 250, San Francisco, 415-648-8778.

Marga's Funny Mondays, weekly comedy and variety showcase, featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by local comedian Marga Gomez. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. The Marsh Berkeley at Cuss Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8318, TheMarsh.org.

Mixed Pickle With Tina Allen, Jon [illegible], and Joe Figueroa, hosted by Joe [illegible] and Samson Koletar. Sat., March 12, 8-10 p.m., $10. Miss Pearls Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Tuner Pixie With Joe Higgins, [illegible] Carter and Sandi Sabo, hosted by Joe [illegible]. Thu., March 10, 8 p.m., $10. Miss Pearls Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Unstaged: Berkeley Stand-and-Spin-Me Hosted by Nazelah [illegible] Darnell Johnson, with [illegible]. Second Thursday of every month, 8 p.m., $7-$10. Club Footer, 135 13th St., Oakland, 510-763-0404.

Saturday Night Showcase with Ann Randolph, [illegible], "Baby" Kessler, and Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $15-35 sliding scale. The Marsh Berkeley at Cuss Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8949, TheMarsh.org.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m., $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 415-397-4337, SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

Stand-Ups With [illegible], Berkeley ST [illegible] and Eddie [illegible]. Fri., March 11, 8-11 p.m., $15. Kimball's Carnival, 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6979, KimballsCarnival.com.

LIVE VARIETY

Blood Sweat and Tears Self-described "artistic marriage of bands" [illegible] Alkaloe: live music about Bantu [illegible] and comedy, exploring themes of the blood that unites us all, the power of blood, human suffering and salvation and the future of the human race. Written, directed and performed by Vashaw Sayssco, Laughing Dolphin. Artistic entity presents: for ages 18 and up. Sun., March 13, 8 p.m., $15 Sessions Art Space Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Second Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3219.

Magic dream Vintage Bland Improvisational, audience-participatory variety show blending music, dance, comedy, poetry, and more. Fri., March 11, 8:15 p.m., $5-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland, 510-923-1074, TemescalArtsCenter.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Adapted by William Hauptman from the novel by Mark Twain. Directed by [illegible] Silva, produced by Contra Costa Civic Theater. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 12, $15-$24. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-9132, CCCT.org.

Collapse Comedy inspired by the 2007 collapse of the Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis. Written by Allison Moore and directed by Jessica Heidt, and starring Aldo Billingslea, Gabriel Marin, Carrie Paff, and Amy Resnick. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. through March 11, 7 p.m. through March 11, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through March 11. $13-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Comedic tour through all the Bard's works in a mere 97 minutes, presented by the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Sundays, 7 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 20, $15-$35. Rob Rodriguez Theatre, 213 F St., Antioch, 415-407-4224.

Free Magic Thinking Solo show written by and starring Robert Ocbic. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through April 9, $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Cuss Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8949, TheMarsh.org.

The Fault Adaptation of the Kafka novel, directed by [illegible] and featuring the Oakland School for the Arts High School students. Proceeds will fund the students' trip to Scotland for a theater festival. March 10-12, 7 p.m.; Sat., March 13, 2 p.m., $10, Oakland School for the Arts, 1800 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-873-8800, SoaArts.org.

Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe Musical fantasy based on the C.S. Lewis novel. Written by Jules Tasca, Thomas Tierney and Ted Drachman, directed by Joe Tracy and Amy Nelson, and starring actors from the Berkeley Teen Playhouse. Saturdays, 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Post-Sunday of every month, 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Continues through April 3. $15-$34. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

I Wanted of Chang and Eng World premiere of the play about conjoined twins Chang and Eng Bunker. Written by Philip Kan Gotanda, directed by Peter [illegible], and starring students in UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through March 13, $10-$15. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9988, CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

Lend Me A Tenor Farce about a famous opera singer and the backstage drama that ensues when he becomes incapacitated the night before the biggest show of his life. Written by Ken Ludwig, directed by Sue Ellen Nelson, and starring [illegible] and Maureen [illegible]. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 26. $15-$18. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley, 510-733-5483, Chanticleers.org.

A Man's Burden Original play based on Franz Kafka's novel *The Castle*. Written and directed by Mark Jackson, featuring Theo Black, Joe Jordan, Mariana Hoffy and Sylvia Kristen. Tickets available at CentralWorks.org. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Sat., March 12, 5 p.m. Continues through March 13. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-1300, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

PICK

Isadora Duncan Dance Awards

Film has the Oscars, music has the Grammys, and Bay Area dance has the **Isadora Duncan Dance Awards,** an annual celebration of the world-class artists who create and perform around the bay. Among this year's nominees are Diablo Ballet's Jessica McClintock and choreographer and Mills College professor Sonya Delwaide. YAK Films director Yoram Savion will receive a special award for capturing Oakland's turf dancers in action. The ceremony also marks the Izzies' 25th anniversary, so expect an extra-festive evening with lots of boldface names, who will be meeting and greeting at the 6 p.m. welcome reception and the post-ceremony party. The festivities take place on Monday, Mar. 14, at the **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater** (701 Mission St., San Francisco). 7 p.m., free. 415-978-2787 or Izzies.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

Not a Genuine Black Man One-man show written and performed by Brian Copeland. Thursdays. Continues through March 31. $20-35 Sliding Scale or $80 reserved seat. The Marsh Berkeley at Cuss Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8949, TheMarsh.org.

Private Lives Production of the [illegible] Noël Coward comedy about a divorced couple who end up honeymooning with their respective new spouses in the same hotel. Directed by Susan E. Evans and starring [illegible], Tyler Norman, Gene Mann, Laura Morgan, and [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through March 20. $15-$24. Douglas Morrisson Theater, 22311 North Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777.

Rhinoceros and others Impact Theatre's production of the classic tragedy, directed by Melissa Hillman. Thursdays-Saturdays. Continues through March 27. $10. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

Ruined Pulitzer prize-winning drama about Congolese women. Written by Lynn Nottage, directed by Liesl Tommy and starring Oberon K. A. Adjepong, Carla Duren, [illegible], and others. With various discussions, discounted nights, and other special events; see BerkeleyRep.org for full schedule. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m.; Wednesdays, Sundays, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through April 10. $14.50-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Singing at the Edge of the World Cabaret-style "musical memoir" about Randy Rutherford, a guitarist who is faced with hearing loss. Written and performed by Rutherford, directed by David Ford. With captioning for the hearing-impaired on March 12, 13 and 26. Sundays, 5 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through April 10. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Cuss Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8949, TheMarsh.org.

Trial by Jury and ***Engaged*** Productions of W.S. Gilbert and Sullivan one-act, staged back-to-back with the Gilbert (non-Sullivan) three-act farce. Fri., March 11, 8-11 p.m., $10-$42. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1450, LesherArtsCenter.org. ●

THEATER REVIEW

LAND OF RUINED

Lynn Nottage brings the Congolese civil war to Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

By Rachel Swan

Oberon K.A. Adjepong and Tonye Patano Kevin Berne

Orange Fanta and whiskey serve as magic elixirs in the Congo — or at least, in a part of the Congo imagined by playwright **Lynn Nottage**, whose new work, *Ruined*, takes place in a small mining town brothel. Run by brassy, no-nonsense matriarch Mama Nadi (**Tonye Patano**), it's an outpost in a country desecrated by civil war. Nadi boasts the coldest Fanta for 25 kilometers, and the only pool table for 50 kilometers. She holds court like a stern disciplinarian, demanding that her customers hand over their ammo upon entering. They place the empty guns in a bucket by the bar, the same way a theater patron might stash a wet umbrella. Nadi's bordello is, in its own way, a safe haven.

And Nadi, for that matter, is a feminist, even though she makes a living selling other women's bodies. The justification is that most of these women are refugees who would rather stay in a shelter with beds and regular meals than serve as concubines for, or be raped by, soldiers. That's a little discomfiting, as is the idea of learning about the Congolese war in an entertainment venue. And yet Berkeley Rep has never shied away from "edutainment," and neither apparently has Nottage, whose desire to "tell the story of war, but through the eyes of women," was the impetus for *Ruined*. (In interviews, she's also characterized the play as a modern adaptation of **Bertolt Brecht**'s *Mother Courage*.) She and director **Liesl Tommy** traveled to East Africa in 2004 to interview female war victims, who served as models for her characters.

Rape has always been used as a weapon in war, but it's particularly virulent in the Congo, as Nottage discovered. Recounting her experience as an investigator and researcher, she said the word was used so often that it became as banal as it was oppressive. One of her interviewees, a woman named Salima (played by **Pascale Armand** in the production), was kidnapped from her home and gang-raped by five soldiers. Others were tortured, beaten, and mutilated. Their children were sequestered, their husbands imprisoned, their villages razed. The term "ruined," used cryptically in the play, refers to the desecration of a woman's genital area with a bayonet. That's never fully explained, but Mama Nadi drops a hint early on, tracing the shape of her own womb as she inquires about another woman.

Show Details

Ruined runs through April 10 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley); $17-$73. BerkeleyRep.org.

The woman in question is Sophie (**Carla Duren**), a small, bird-like creature who awakens some kind of protective instinct in Mama Nadi. Sophie is "ruined," according to her uncle, Christian (**Oberon K.A. Adjepong**), the traveling salesman who fetches provisions for Mama Nadi, including Belgian chocolate and lipstick. Although Sophie's back story is never fully disclosed, Duren conveys all the necessary information by having the character walk with a pronounced limp. Mama Nadi spares Sophie the dirty work, allowing her to tend the bar and sing for customers instead of seducing them. Such compassion reveals more about the matriarch than it does about Sophie. For all her sternness, Nadi clearly empathizes with the women she employs. And, like them, she bears the hint of some past wound.

Thus, the brothel maintains a perilous equilibrium. Soft drink logos, AIDS ribbons, Christmas lights, and other debris clutter the brothel, which is surrounded on all sides by thick bushes and trees. Conceived by scenic designer **Clint Ramos**, it's both a feminine space and an appropriated space, but it also reflects the deteriorated state of the country. There's a little dormitory at stage right where the women read romance novels and paint their fingernails. On the other side lies the bandstand, lit up by a glimmering disco ball. The open space between serves as a dance floor, where Salima and a prostitute named Josephine (**Zaineb Jah**) hustle the clientele.

Occasionally, the dance sequences become part of the drama, as Salima and Josephine have to rescue one another from overzealous customers. Nor is the brothel spared from all the violence outside. Members of different armed factions infiltrate the bar and stage their own war within its walls. Rebel leader Jerome Kisembe (**Wendell B. Franklin**) brandishes a machete and points it menacingly at Mama Nadi's neck. His arch enemy, the sneering Commander Osembenga (**Adrian Roberts**), is the play's most vocal villain. In one scene, Osembenga subjects Christian to an army-style hazing. The salesman is forced to drink glass upon glass of whiskey until he's dizzy with alcohol poisoning.

Yet amid all these violent moments are some tender parts, too. Salima's husband, Fortune (**Jason Bowen**), arrives to rescue his wife and waits for two days in the rain while Salima hides in her room, questioning his intentions. The flirtations between Christian and Mama Nadi suggest that he'll eventually crack her hard shell. And then there are Sophie's songs, which seem purposefully designed to transmit messages about the war outside. *Life's a green mango plucked too soon*, she sings, in a preternatural alto. Taken in context, the song could be about death, or a land ravaged by war, or a woman's body. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

2010–2011 SEASON

music dance theater
Cal Performances

Double Bill:
Branford Marsalis Quartet & Terence Blanchard Quintet
Fri, March 11, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall
Multi-Grammy-winning saxophonist Marsalis shares the double bill with Grammy winner Terence Blanchard for an evening of modern jazz that both respects tradition and shines with improvisation and technical brilliance.

Les Percussions de Strasbourg
Jean-Paul Bernard, *artistic director*
Sun, March 13, 3 pm, Hertz Hall
The Evolution of Writing for Percussion
Les Percussions de Strasbourg explores the wide range of percussion instruments available in Western, Asian, and African traditions in fresh and lively performances of contemporary music.
Program: Edgard Varèse: *Ionisation*; Philippe Manoury: *livre des claviers*; Raphaël Cendo: *Refontes*; Edmund Campion: *Ondoyants et divers*; Yoshihisa Taira: *Hiérophonie V*

Composer Portrait: Pierre Boulez
David Milnes, conductor
Eco Ensemble
Graeme Jennings, violin
Mon, Mar 14, 8 pm, Hertz Hall
Dérive 2; *Anthèmes 2*
In celebration of legendary composer and conductor Pierre Boulez's 85th birthday, the Eco Ensemble and violinist Graeme Jennings perform two masterworks by this towering icon of modern music. The seductive and hypnotic *Dérive 2* was written for 11 instruments over the course of 18 years. *Anthèmes 2* will be performed by violinist Graeme Jennings, accompanied by live electronics designed by the Paris-based, Boulez-founded Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM).
Presented in association with the Department of Music and the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies (CNMAT).

Nederlands Dans Theater
Fri & Sat, Mar 18 & 19, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall
Ranked among the world's most innovative contemporary dance companies, Nederlands Dans Theater returns to Cal Performances with works by former Artistic Director Jiří Kylián and innovative NDT resident choreographers Paul Lightfoot and Sol León.
Program: Kylián: *Whereabouts Unknown*, set to music by Michael de Roo, Arvo Pärt, Anton Webern, Steve Reich, and Charles Ives; Paul Lightfoot/Sol León: *Silent Screen*, set to excerpts from Philip Glass's Glassworks and soundtrack from *The Hours*.

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Paramount Theatre
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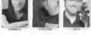
with Tara Kamangar, piano, Cyrus Beroukhim, violin, Arash Amini, cello



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LECTURES & LIT

Singing the Blues in Beijing

American expat guitarist Alan Paul hits the big time on the other side of the world

An acoustic guitar twangs. A saxophone echoes its woeful tone. Drumbeats and a lazy-river swirl of strings follow the singer as he wails the blues.

The club is in Beijing. The audience is Chinese, and so is most of the band. But the lead guitarist is **Alan Paul**, an American who never dreamed that upon pulling up stakes and moving to the far side of the world, he would end up with a CD, a new career, international renown — and a memoir.

Paul was a New Jersey music journalist when his wife, *Wall Street Journal* editor Rebecca Blumenstein, was offered a job as the newspaper's China bureau chief in 2005. He urged her to take it. "She was surprised that I would quit my job as a senior writer for *Slam* and *Guitar World* magazines to move around the world with three young children — then aged two, four, and seven — just to further her career. But I craved adventure," Paul confessed, "and something told me that the opportunities would not just be for Rebecca."

Alan Paul

As revealed in his memoir ***Big in China: My Unlikely Adventures Raising a Family, Playing the Blues, and Becoming a Star in Beijing***, Blumenstein accepted the post, and the family immersed itself in expat life, wandering the Great Wall and venturing far afield into remote tribal villages. "We adapted to life in China faster than I thought possible, and I felt a profound sense of freedom," said Paul, who began blogging about being "an American in a foreign land trying to capture everything swirling around him."

That newfound sense of freedom swept him into a Beijing guitar shop, where he bonded quickly with its proprietor, dobro master Woodie Wu. "I couldn't believe that I had found a Chinese musician who shared my love of the blues," Paul said. When the pair decided to form a band, "the name was obvious: Woodie Alan."

Drummer Lu Wei, bassist Zhang Yong, and American saxophonist Dave Loevinger completed the combo, which, after being named 2008's "Beijing Band of the Year" by *City Weekend* magazine, began touring central and southern China, introducing audiences to American-style blues, sung in English and Mandarin. The band's 2009 debut album, *Beijing Blues*, features the Bob Dylan classics "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go," along with the original song "Come to the Edge" and Chinese-language tunes "Wode Baobei" and "Anjing Shenghuo."

"The group brought me more deeply into Chinese life than anything else could have," said Paul, who will be at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, March 12. "It was also a profound personal transformation. After fifteen years of interviewing musicians like Gregg Allman and Eric Clapton, I was now the performer — climbing onto large stages to spread the gospel of the music that I love.

"Woodie Alan was symbolic of my entire China experience, proof of what can happen if you plunge into a new reality." 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com.

— Anneli Rufus

LECTURES

Artists Portray the Three Gorges An evening of lectures, art, music, and more, all focused on the Three Gorges displacement in China and presented in honor of the International Day of Action for Rivers. Featuring speeches by authors [illegible], art curator Jeff Kelley, and photographer and author Linda Butler, in addition to a dim sum dinner and a musical performance by pianist Melody Kwan. Mon., March 14, 7-8 p.m. $10-$15. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Estate Planning Seminar: Transferring Property from One Generation to the Next With tax attorneys [illegible] and [illegible]. Tue., March 15, 7-8:30 p.m., free. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-1401.

Panel Discussion: "Experience vs. Theory as the Basis for Buddhist Abhidharma" Featuring independent scholar [illegible], Independent Scholar Collett Cox of the University of Washington; Rupert Gethin of the University of Bristol, and [illegible] and Robert Sharf of UC Berkeley. Fri., March 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m., free. Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, 2018 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Hot Topic: "Birds of the [illegible] Creek Watershed" The local birder and photographer presents a slideshow and lecture about the Sausal Creek Watershed's [illegible]. Wed., March 16, 7-8 p.m., free. [illegible] Branch, 3595 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-535-5620, [illegible].

James Attlee: "The Nocturne" The author discusses his new book, which [illegible] "how illumination and [illegible] the modern era's defining quality [illegible] the [illegible] of our world." Wed., March 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $12-$15. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

[illegible]: "Fire and Conservation of the Northern Berkeley Hills" Mon., March 14, 12-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

João Vale de Almeida: "The State of the European Union" The head of the delegation of the European Union to the United States discusses his life and work. Thu., March 10, 12-1:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Room, [illegible] Building, Berkeley.

Nicholas de Monchaux: "Fashioning Apollo" The architect and [illegible] slideshow the [illegible] Revolution and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin wore during their landmark moon landing. Mon., March 14, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Auditorium, [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

[illegible]: "On New 'Open' Acrylics" The artist and [illegible] discusses the new type of slow drying acrylic paint as part of the El Cerrito Art Association's monthly meeting. [illegible] and a "mini art show" at 7 p.m., followed by [illegible] at 7:30 and then the speaker. All are [illegible]. Mon., March 14, 7 p.m., free. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Ln., El Cerrito, 510-559-7000.

Panel Discussion: "The Rebirth of the American Labor Movement From Wisconsin to California" Speakers include Sal Rosselli, interim president of the National Union of Healthcare Workers, and Steve Early, author of *Embedded with Organized Labor*. Potluck reception at 6 followed by the [illegible] at 7. Please bring a dish to share. Sat., March 12, 6-9:30 p.m., free. Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak Street, Alameda, 510-865-4469, alamedafree.org/library.

Panel Discussion: "Obama at Midterm: [illegible]" Featuring a panel of [illegible] and presented by the 38th Annual Panel on the Presidency. Reservations recommended; call 510-642-4211. Mon., March 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. 155 Dwinelle Hall, 155 Dwinelle Hall, Berkeley, Berkeley.edu.

Presentation and Discussion: "The Battle in Wisconsin, And the Need for Resistance and [illegible]" Sun., March 13, 7 p.m., free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-1196, RevolutionBooks.org.

Scott [illegible]: "Life in Your [illegible]" The author discusses [illegible] the subject of his most recent book. Tue., March 15, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible]: "Israelis and Palestinians"

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PICKS

Yiyun Li

Acclaimed novelist **Yiyun Li** has won as many awards as ... last year *The New Yorker* named the Oakland resident one of its "top twenty writers under forty." Written in English rather than her native Chinese, Li's scathing observations of the post-Mao China where she grew up fill such moving works as *The Vagrants* and *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*. As part of **the Story Hour in the Library** series, Li reads in **UC Berkeley's Morrison Library** on Thursday, Mar. 10, 5 p.m., free. StoryHour.Berkeley.edu *— Anneli Rufus*

Benjamin Bac Sierra

Set in the early 1990s in the barrio of an unnamed California town, **Benjamin Bac Sierra**'s debut novel ***Barrio Bushido*** is the tale of three young Latinos who join forces to rob urban small-time gangsters. Born and raised in San Francisco's Mission District, Sierra served on the front lines with the US Marine Corps during the Gulf War and later earned a law degree at Hastings. Meet him at **Pegasus Books** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBookstore.com *— A.R.*

Edie Gelles

Stanford University historian **Edie Gelles**, author of *Abigail and John: Portrait of a Marriage*, is a renowned Abigail Adams scholar. At the **Albany Community Center** (1249 Marin Ave., Albany), humanistic Jewish group **Kol Hadash** sponsors a **bagel brunch** on Sunday, Mar. 13, where Gelles lectures on another Abigail: Abigail Levy Franks, whose letters comprise the earliest known body of written work by any female in colonial America. 11 a.m., $7.50-$10. KolHadash.org. *— A.R.*

James Gleick

We're speeding down the information superhighway and **James Gleick** is our appointed driver. In an event sponsored by KPFA, National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize finalist Gleick examines the spread of information — and what it means to be informed during an information age — in his new book ***The Information***, which he discusses at the **First Congregational Church of Berkeley** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Wednesday, Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m., $12-$15. KPFA.org. *— A.R.*

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Together" The Sheikh Jarrah Movement (East Jerusalem's ...) conducts a slideshow, a talk, and a question-and-answer session about the demonstrations. Sat., March 12, 7-9 p.m., $5-$10. Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Ave., Piedmont. 510-547-2424. KehillaSynagogue.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Alan Paul Reading from his memoir, *Big in China: My Unlikely Adventures Raising a Family, Playing the Blues, and Becoming a Star in Beijing*. Sat., March 12, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Albany Library Reading with Group Hosted ... Gonzales facilitates this group, which ... monthly ... on "the American experience." Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. AClibrary.org.

Benjamin Bac Sierra Reading from his novel, *Barrio Bushido*. Thu., March 10, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Sean Thurber Reading from his memoir, *In a Sunflower* ... Fiber. Wed., March 16, 7 p.m., free. Inside Inc., Berkeley. 1700 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Celebrating ... of the new book. Thu., March 10, 7 p.m., free. ... A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. ...

[illegible] Reading from her memoir, *Found* ... Mon., March 14, 7 p.m., Mrs. Dalloway's, Berkeley. 1700 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Leslie Larson Reading from her novel, *Breaking Out of Bedlam*. Thu., March 10, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Lyrics and Dirges: Angie Chau, John Dobel, et al Reading featuring Candice ... "Artists as Advocates" editor John Dobel, Nick Johnson-Lee, Dana ..., Stephen Meade, and Angie Chau ... by Teresa Mauro. Wed., March 16, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Music of the World/La Palabra Spoken With MamaCoAtl. Fourth and Second Sunday of every month, 3:30 p.m., free. Rebecca's Books, 3268 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-852-4768. RebeccasBooks.biz.

[illegible] and Paul [illegible] Reading from their respective poetry collections. Presented by Poetry Flash. Thu., March 10, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Yiyun Li Reading as part of the "story hour" series. Thu., March 10, 5-6 p.m., free. Morrison Room, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

PUBLIC INTEREST

Alameda City Council Meeting Third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. Alameda City Hall West, 950 West Mall Sq., Alameda. 510-747-7400. www.ci.alameda.ca.us.

Amnesty International Monthly Meeting All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. ... A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. ...

Thursday City College Remembers the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and Immigrant Garment Workers Commemoration of the ... industrial fire, with a community memorial at 3 p.m., followed by an evening program (6:30 p.m.) with readings, film screenings, and more from various local authors and ... Fri., March 11, 3-8:30 p.m., free. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2938. ...

Food Stamp Program Third Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Main branch, 125 14th St., Suite 100, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Free Seeds Anthology Give and get free seeds of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Bay Area Free Seed Exchange, 13520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-1841.

[illegible] discussion A discussion group for non-hobbyists ... Meeting on the benefits and dangers presented by modern technology. Fri., March 11, 7-8 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Poetry Slam Hosted by Charles Ellik, Bobby Holt. Music by 3 Blind Mice. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

An Evening of [illegible] American [illegible] Featuring ... Valdez, Jayne ..., Marcy ..., Hannah Park, and Pennie Opal Plant. All contributions will go toward the publishing of the anthology *Turtle Island to Abya Yala*. Fri., March 11, 7-8:30 p.m. ... Gathering Tribes Gallery, 1573 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-9038.

Heart of All about Poetry hosted monthly by Amos White. Second Thursday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net.

Last Word Poetry Series Poetry readings and open mic. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Nefeli Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-841-6374.

Poetry Unearthed A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by ... Second and Third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2838. WorldGroundCafe.com.

Second Sunday Prose & Poetry Reading Poetry reading and open mic. Second Sunday of every month, 2-5 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Sugar Teeth Poetry Contest A chance for ... 21 ... to perform their original works. Second Friday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Thursday at Word Beat A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. ... Mediterraneum Caffe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Word Art Open-Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all other writers are invited to share their work. Arrive early to sign up. Second and Fourth Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. ... WordArt.com. Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. 510-569-... ZocaloCoffeehouse.com.

Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam Open-mic with poetry and DJ music for youth under 21. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. (510) 763-4300. ... .org. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

BODY&SOUL

Exhaling With Stephanie Jones

As a breathwork energy healer, she claims to loosen stuck memories.

Stephanie Jones

She expected her new client to cry. **Stephanie Jones** says most of her clients burst into tears when the breathing techniques she teaches them "pull up and then release unhelpful thought patterns and stuck memories so that the spiritual body can be light, clear, and free."

Because this new client had breast cancer, "I really expected her to cry, since 75 percent of people cry anyway, and she had just been diagnosed. Instead she was laughing and laughing because she felt such permission to feel joy."

A former second-grade teacher and *Harper's Bazaar Australia* contributor who "went to Yale and grew up in a very normal, nonspiritual family," Jones shifted gears after her sister underwent emergency open-heart surgery, allegedly had a near-death experience at age thirty.

"I was desperate to help her recover and I myself was traumatized," Jones said. "I discovered breathwork energy healing, kundalini yoga, and angel therapy to help both of us. She was the one who wanted us to become healers. I told her I couldn't do the breathwork training with her because I had a job — so the universe took away that job immediately," Jones said wryly.

After completing the training, she became a breathwork energy healer. As demonstrated during her **Breathwork Energy Healing class** at **7th Heaven Yoga and Wellness Center** (2820 Seventh St., Berkeley) on Saturday, March 12, the process entails lying on the floor and "doing a simple yet powerful breathing technique to quiet the mind and get energy moving through the body." In the meantime, Jones explained, "I am burning sage, applying essential oils, and holding the safe space." Above this, mantras are chanted and music played: Buchan Kaur, Coldplay, Beyoncé, Train.

"It can be very different every time you do it," Jones said. "One time, you may cry and feel very cleared out in the heart chakra. You may be working on a different issue the next time. You may experience emotional releases, physical sensations, and temperature changes."

Sometimes even stranger things occur. One client had recently endured an appendectomy. "While she was doing the breathing, I felt compelled to run my hand a few inches above her body. And I felt a heavy magnetic energy at the incision point. … I took out the stuck energy with my hands, not something I'd been specifically trained to do. And she started to smell. And I knew that smell. It was what my sister smelled like for months after her surgeries. I can only speculate that it was toxins from anesthesia."

Jones is also a certified Angel Therapy practitioner, and says she beseeches angels to aid her clients and her work. "I personally am not religious at all but have had many angelic experiences in the last couple years," she said. "I often work with Archangel Michael, who clears and protects, and Archangel Raphael, who heals."

When the breast-cancer patient was doing her breathwork, "she felt a hand on her head the entire session and she thought it was mine. It wasn't. But I had invited in her guardian angels and Archangel Raphael." 1:45 p.m., $30-$35. BreathingWithAngels.com

— Anneli Rufus

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Brain Injury Life Skills Support Group Three different support groups offered for brain injury survivors and their caregivers. For information, call 510-204-3307. Second and Fourth Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, 350 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland. 510-655-4000.

Dr. Yvonne Lee: "What Happy People Know" The chiropractor shares tips for overcoming stress, pain, and depression. Space is limited; call to sign up. Sat., March 12, 12:30-2 p.m., free. Vibrant Body Wellness, 2858 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-8343, VibrantBodyWellness.com.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Sufferers and their supporters are invited to attend. Third Tuesday of every month, 12-2 p.m., free. 510-644-3273. Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Look Good ... Feel Better Cosmetologists and wig consultants help women with cancer cope with appearance changes. Fourth Monday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop With guest medical speakers and group talk. Space is limited; call 925-933-0101 to register. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through May 4, free. Cancer Support Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

Nourishing the Mind-Body Connection Four-class workshop for cancer survivors. Call 510-869-8833 for information. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:15-2:30 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center, Summit Campus, 400 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8230.

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PERSONAL GROWTH

Elder's Guild A group for older people interested in creating a support system and exploring conscious aging. Second and Fourth Sunday of every month, 1:30-4 p.m., free. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

[illegible] The Money Learn how to improve your relationship with money and welcome financial abundance. Led by [illegible]. March 15, 1-2:30 p.m., $10. Angel Light Books, 3241 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-595-1800. AngelLightBooks.com

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Reading Fair With angel readings, a raffle, and prizes. RSVP suggested; call 510-595-1800. Second Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m., $10-$25. Angel Light Books, 3047 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-595-1800. AngelLightBooks.com.

Sunday Evening Meditation and Information Series Fifteen-week series of nonsectarian talks and meditations, facilitated by local teachers and [illegible] teachers. Sundays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through June 12, $10 suggested donation. Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

"40 Day Challenge" Saturdays, 8-11 a.m. Continues through March 19. $399. Namaste Grand Lake, 3229 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland.

Kirtan Dance With vocalist and musician Sean Fell. Second Friday of every month, 8:30 p.m., donation requested. Yoga Mandala, 2807 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-486-1938. YogaMandalaStudio.com.

Yoga for Large People With modified poses and specialized instruction specifically tailored to larger bodies. Thursdays, 6-7:15 p.m., $10. Niroga Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330. NirogaCenter.org.

PICKS

Jizo Talk

Jizo — the protector of travelers, children, and souls destined for hell — is among the most popular deities in Japan, where his statues are ubiquitous. In the conference room at the **Institute of East Asian Studies** (2223 Fulton St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 10, **Sarah Horton** of the Berkeley-based arm of the **Society for the Promotion of Buddhism** gives a talk on Jizo and the many dimensions of his worship. 5 p.m., free. IEAS.Berkeley.edu *— Anneli Rufus*

Community Acupressure Clinic

Said to restore circulation, create balance, and facilitate the body's natural healing processes, Tui Na is a form of Qigong massage. A **community acupressure clinic** at the **Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall** (1924 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Mar. 15, includes Tui Na, Ren Shen acupressure, Reiki, and possibly also Thai massage, Shiatsu, Reflexology, and more. 6:30 p.m. $15-$50. BFUU.org *— A.R.*

Infant Massage Class

A certified pediatric massage master teacher, developmental baby massage teacher, and licensed massage therapist seen regularly on TLC's *Bringing Home Baby* program, **Tina Allen** teaches a **class in infant massage** at the **Rosen Method Center** (825 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Saturday, Mar. 12. Being massaged allegedly helps babies sleep better and cry less and aids their growth and digestion. 1:30 p.m., free. LiddleKidz.com *— A.R.*

Holistic Cooking Demonstration

Believing that organic foods can promote holistic healing, metabolic balance, and recovery from injury and illness, **Bauman College** instructor and personal chef **Trudy Schafer** offers a holistic cooking demonstration at the **Berkeley Farmers' Market** (Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley) on Tuesday, Mar. 15. 4 p.m., free. EcologyCenter.org *— A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

THE PERFECT STORM

For the week of March 9-15, 2011

By Rallee Finn

This mad, nearly manic rush of the last several weeks continues. While it may be hard to believe, the seemingly unrelenting sense of urgency actually seems to intensify this week. It's hard to know exactly when the mad rush began. Was it Jupiter's move into Aries that upped the pace? The final pass of Uranus through the last degrees of Pisces, encouraging hearts and minds to squeeze as much as possible into as many moments as were available? Or is it Uranus' entry into Aries that's generating such a powerful field of constant activity? Perhaps it's an aggregation of all these events. But whether it's a single cause, or many, one thing is sure: The wild ride of daily life is gaining momentum. Expect to feel pressed for all sorts of things — time, money, words, or breath. The good news is that an odd sensation of rising to the occasion will support most endeavors.

Uranus moves into Aries on March 11, and as it starts a new cycle, so do we. Uranus signifies kinetic energy, especially the dynamic motion of change. Aries represents volition expressed through action, particularly in activities motivated by passion, ambition, and desire. And the power of their combined presence tends to manifest as a quickening of stagnant issues, personal or collective. As that urge for action combines with the drive of a new cycle, you may want to reevaluate those New Year resolutions. Go ahead — spring is a fine time to celebrate a new beginning, and the vernal equinox is only a few days away.

All new cycles have signatures of adventure and anxiety, and this one is no different. Uranus is an erratic, unpredictable force, and Aries, while not necessarily unpredictable or erratic, can be impatient, tempestuous, and rash. These are the very qualities that often land Aries in the thick of controversy, defending choices and positions that seem a bit extreme to the rest of us. But it's important to remember, first, that we all have Aries somewhere in our birth chart, and second, that without Aries' need to forge new pathways, few of us would ever leave the comfort of what's known for the thrill of the unknown.

Also keep in mind that new cycles tend to excite old habits — it's almost as if certain themes you thought were long gone make a momentary, and often splashy, comeback. Don't despair if you find yourself caught in an onslaught of old behaviors or attitudes. Be confident, face the challenge of transformation, and understand that the persistent red threads of karmic patterns appear at every significant juncture. And this new Uranus cycle is going to offer a plethora of opportunities to face those areas that still suffer from a lack of awareness.

As you move through the next several weeks of adjusting to the new signature, do your best to remember that all of us will be experiencing this new frequency — which means all of us are going to need more than a little tenderness. Do your best to make kindness your default setting.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Uranus feeds your need to break free from whatever seems to be holding you back. Just remember, it isn't necessary to burn every bridge on the path to independence. Some situations, while inhibiting, may also provide necessary training.

TAURUS Uranus moves you into a deep internal phase, and while that doesn't mean you're going to be anti-social, you are apt to experience an increased need for contemplative time, allowing for greater self-awareness.

GEMINI Uranus encourages you to become more actively engaged in your community. It makes no difference whether your participation is through volunteering or contributing; what's important is that you're involved.

CANCER Uranus focuses your attention on career concerns, and as part of that process you're probing new avenues of employment. Be bold and adventurous, and you'll be pleased with what you discover about yourself.

LEO Uranus expands your consciousness, and while you might think this is about drugs, it's more about the exploration of new belief systems. When possible, let go of the tried and true and you'll set your mind and soul free.

VIRGO Uranus provokes an innovative approach to finance, especially if you're willing to let go of old habits that might be keeping you mired in debt. I'm not promising a miracle cure, but there is the possibility of improvement.

LIBRA Uranus insists on a new understanding of relationship, and while you may think this has to do with others, the transformation begins with you. Start this process by considering how you could take better care of yourself.

SCORPIO Uranus stimulates startling developments in the workplace. Flexibility is the key to accepting these surprising plot twists and handling them with skill.

SAGITTARIUS Uranus arouses a need for undiluted self-expression. From declaration of love to portraits in oil to songs written, sung, and played in the key of "me," be willing to risk it all by being yourself.

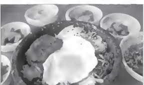
CAPRICORN Uranus disturbs your home, internal and external, triggering issues of safety and security. There's no need to be anxious, but you need to figure out how to create greater equanimity.

AQUARIUS Uranus is all about the conversation, and that means you are talking — a lot. Whether it's monologues or dialogues, you're engaged in an exchange of innovative ideas that's certain to be growth producing.

PISCES Uranus opens up issues of value, from money to self-esteem and everything in between. Discard old negative spending habits as well as old ways of assessing your gifts, and you'll move toward a deeper sense of ultimate worth. ●

For More Info

Rallee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Rallee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Rallee Finn


Bibimbap is infinitely customizable comfort food. Chris Duffey

NORTH BY NORTHEAST

Bowl'd takes the intimidation factor out of Korean cuisine

By Anneli Rufus

Moments before delivering your entrée, amid Bowl'd's mildly hipsterish lime-greens and dark wood-grain browns, your server sets out across your table, from left to right, a series of tiny flat-bottomed bowls containing sesame-oil-bathed bean sprouts (*kongnamul*), seaweed salad (*miyeok muchim*), sweet pickled radish (*muchae*), julienned potato, fresh kimchi, chili-peppered chewy white fish cakes, and jalapeño-tangled dried anchovies, heads and all. If you've identified yourself as a vegan or vegetarian, you'll get garlicky spinach and chopped-tofu salad instead of the fish and the kimchi, which is made with infinitesimal needle-size shrimp.

If you have any history with Korean food, you'll know that these morsels are called *banchan* and that they're meant to be eaten bit by bit throughout the meal.

But let's face it. Shockingly few diners in this country have any history with Korean food. 7-11 sells sushi. **Jack in the Box** offers egg rolls. Yet Korean food remains remote, the Pluto of Asian cuisines in America.

Jessica Oh wants to change that, which is why she likes to tell non-Korean diners at Bowl'd — which she opened last month with co-owner **Chi Moon** — to treat banchan "like fries with a burger."

Oh was raised in the Bay Area by Korean-bred parents who owned several restaurants including Oakland's **Ohgane**. "I love Korean food," she said. "It speaks for itself. It's perfect for herbivores and for people who like meat, but because it hasn't been introduced to Americans in the right way, many people are hesitant to try it, even though it's made of such familiar stuff."

When she and Moon decided to open a restaurant, one of their main goals was to demystify Korean food for non-Koreans. "Why not introduce Korean food without being intimidating? To do that, you need a clearly written English menu and more Americanized service."

They called the place Bowl'd "because it means you're bold to try something new." It also alludes to the vessel in which most of Bowl'd's sumptuous, satisfying, sophisticatedly spiced, and strikingly beautiful fare is served — from classic kaleidoscopic *bibimbap* to chewy *japchae* noodles (snipped tableside with huge scissors, per tradition) to an array of stews featuring seafood, tofu, beef brisket, kimchi, and whole date/chestnut/ginseng/sticky-rice-stuffed chickens.

These stews, like much else at Bowl'd, can be tailored to suit personal preference. "The great thing about Korean food is that it's all about choices. Koreans like to have a lot of options along with their rice," Oh said.

So her customers customize. The crimped white wrappers of pot-stickerish *mandoo* dumplings can be stuffed with finely chopped and gently spiced shrimp, kimchi, vegetables, or beef and can be either lightly pan-fried or steamed to delicate melt-in-your-mouthness. Kimchi fried rice, more intense but less oily than its Chinese counterpart, can be made either spicy or mild. $2 more buys a bacon boost.

Bacon also features, along with almonds and rice, in falafel-esque marinated-tofu pockets whose sophisticated sweetness makes one wish they were more cohesive and easier to eat — as are Bowl'd's vegetarian rice buns, which aren't buns at all but tangy, tangerine-size sticky-rice balls reminiscent of Italian arancini rolled in roasted seaweed shards.

Justifiably one of Korea's most popular dishes, *bibimbap* is itself an exercise in options. Handfuls of spinach, seaweed, mushrooms, carrot, scallions, bean sprouts, pickled vegetables, fried egg, and meat (only if you want egg and meat) artfully array your choice of porcelain bowl or sizzling-hot stoneware *dolsot* pot; rice (white or "mixed," containing millet and other grains) fills another. Sauce choices include spicy *gochujang* or mild citrus-soy. Your average non-Korean has no idea what to do with all of this — and, if you're familiar with other Asian cuisines, the correct procedure feels anathema: To the rice, add however much you like of whichever components you like. Stir until well-mixed. Eat slowly with a shallow stainless-steel spoon. "Koreans don't like to eat in a hurry," Oh said.

Bibimbap is infinitely customizable comfort food, and Korean-style comfort can be tongue-searingly spicy. Served in a helmet-size, too-hot-to-touch *dolsot* brimming with cinnabar broth, stretchy clear sweet-potato noodles, chewy rice-cake "petals," onions, beef bits, and a Sargasso Sea of fiery fermented cabbage, Bowl'd's kimchi stew offers an incendiary intimate embrace, asking only — as your face flushes and your eyes stream — that you submit. (Kimchi is prepared fresh daily at Bowl'd.) For a deeply satisfying and optionally red-hot protein fix, soft tofu stew can be made spicy, mild, or the ambiguous "non-spicy," stocked with seafood, meats, vegetables, bean paste, and/or kimchi — along with an optional raw egg that cooks after you stir it in.

Small plates include sweet-sauced deep-fried glazed potatoes, tuna-salad-stuffed seaweed rolls, egg-battered oysters, and latke-like ground mung-bean pancakes. Icy horchata-style slushies and a heartwarming hot cinnamon-ginger dessert drink *augment* a beverage selection that includes "sojutails," made with Korean distilled rice liquor.

Although Oh calls Bowl'd's fare "traditionally Korean, not fusion at all," the restaurant occasionally darts off the classic path — with a giant jokey fork, spoon, knife, and spatula mounted on one wall; buckwheat soba noodles available instead of rice with *bibimbap*; an all-organic *bibimbap* option; and (alongside fleshy faves such as Korean barbecue and pear-fringed beef tartare) a wealth of meatless options. Even when ordering most standard items, just announce that you shun flesh. Arrangements will be made.

That's pretty *bold*! ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Bowl'd

1479 Solano Ave., Albany
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Cash, American Express, MasterCard, Discover, Visa.
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Reservations accepted

Sample Menu

Mung Bean Pancakes	$6
Marinated Tofu Pockets	$4
Bibimbap	$12/$14
Kim Chi Stew	$12
Kim Chi Fried Rice	$12
Soft Tofu Stew	$12

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price, and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person; $$—$10-$25; $$$—$25-$50; $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 1919 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5600. (California Cuisine) $$$
Billy's [illegible] 3311 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-769-5933. (Asian) $
[illegible] 1345 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6200. (Southeast Asian) $$
[illegible] 2304 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-5[illegible]-1800. (Vietnamese) $-$$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 1538 Main St., Alameda, 510-865-0403. (Barbecue) $$
Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
[illegible] 1518 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-1650. (Cuban) $$
The [illegible] 1303 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-[illegible]. (Tapas/Small Plates) $
La Piñata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-0181. (Mexican) $$

ALBANY KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

5 [illegible] on Solano 1403 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-1237. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Al's Big Burger 431 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]. (Diner) $
[illegible] 1641 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 526-8878. (Vietnamese) $$
[illegible] Albany & Cafe 841 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-1134. (Bakery/American) $$
Cafe [illegible] 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5661. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
[illegible] 1389 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6860. (Breakfast/Brunch/Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
The [illegible] 1750 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-3388. (Seafood) $$
[illegible] 1093 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-7319. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Alborz Persian Market 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8811. ([illegible]/Persian) $$
Amanda's Feel Good Fresh Food 2122 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2122. (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $$$
Arinell 2119 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035. (Pizza) $
Au Coquelet Café 2000 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0433. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/Breakfast/Brunch/Eclectic/Greek) $
Azerbaijan Restaurant 2118 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8718. (Middle Eastern) $$
Bangkok Thai Market 1458 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6683. (Thai) $
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790. (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$
Cafe [illegible] 2007 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5553. ([illegible]) $$
La [illegible] 2154 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8540. (Mexican) $
[illegible] 1301 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-5687. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3. (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] Restaurant 1841 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1800. (Mexican) $-$$
Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $-$$
The [illegible] Pizza [illegible] 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055. (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
[illegible] Di Vino 1801 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-868-3361. (Bakery/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$
Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004. (Italian) $$$
[illegible] 1874 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-5483. (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Addie's Pizza Pie 3040 Market St., Berkeley, 510-547-2150. (Pizza/American/Dessert/Ice Cream) $$
Cafe [illegible] 2428 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-4366. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Caribbean [illegible] 2550 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley, 510-981-8476. (Caribbean) $$
La [illegible] 2975 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8102. (Mexican) $
[illegible] 2748 Market St., Berkeley, 510-548-8421. (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$
[illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0151. ([illegible]) $$

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900. (California Cuisine) $$
Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230. (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$
The Bread Project Cafe 1703 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8175. (Bakery/American) $
The Bread [illegible] 1398 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9840. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1100 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American) $
Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-61[illegible]. (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Cafe [illegible] 1298 65th St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]. (Breakfast/Brunch/American/Coffeehouses)
[illegible] Barbeque 1958 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 540-8085. (Barbecue) $$
[illegible] 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5200. (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] 1500 University Ave., Berkeley

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Locavore Wine Cafe Dinners Meet visiting local vintners and taste their wines, along with a seasonal dinner. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. $70. [illegible] Wine Club Studio, [illegible] Seventh St., Suite A, Berkeley.

Cooking Demonstration: [illegible] With Trudy Schafer, a natural chef instructor at Bauman College. Tue., March 15, 4-6:30 p.m., free. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby St. at MLK Way, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

East Bay Green Drinks Monthly gathering for people interested in sustainability. Topics include green business, architecture, design, [illegible], and clean energy. Third Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8 p.m. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.
Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.
[illegible] Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Berkeley Adult School, 1700 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.
Emeryville Farmers' Market Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.
[illegible] Market/Community [illegible] Stand Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-6250. CI.Berkeley.ca.us/[illegible].
Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-745-7275. [illegible].com/Parks/Farm/[illegible].
Kaiser Permanente Hayward [illegible] Market Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.
Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3600 Howe St., Oakland.
Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Circle at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.
Laurel Market Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-[illegible] p.m. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4[illegible] MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.
North Shattuck [illegible] Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.
Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, [illegible], Oakland.
Pleasanton Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.
Richmond Certified Farmers Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.
Richmond [illegible] Market Fridays, 5 a.m.-[illegible] p.m., free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.
Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12796.
Temescal Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. ■

PICK

Fruit-Carving Class

Learn to transform watermelons into whales, daikon into dragons, radishes into roses, and cantaloupes into chrysanthemum urns. Award-winning produce-carver **Jimmy Zhang** offers an **introductory class at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center** (388 9th St., Ste. 290, Oakland) on Saturday, Mar. 12. His six-week fruit-and-vegetable-carving course begins on Saturday, Mar. 19. 10:30 a.m., free. OACC.cc —*Anneli Rufus*

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Southie

6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0100. Wood Tavern's casual, cozy next-door offshoot serves a brief yet tantalizing menu of artisan sandwiches (the Dungeness crab roll with aioli is especially toothsome) as well as a soup of the day, a couple of cutting-edge crostini, and a few salads (get the poached egg and bacon with frisée and scallions). Sarah's Whoopie Pie — carrot cake layered with cream cheese ice cream — is one of the East Bay's outstanding desserts, and there are two rotating beers and three or four rotating wines on tap. The tiny tables, counter seating, and friendly, noisy vibe make the place ideal for take-out orders, single diners, and couples. $$$

Gaumenkitzel

2121 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-5016. Gloriously redefining "plain" and "simple" in German farmhouse fare that ranges from hand-hewn muesli to beef roulade and roasted vegetables, Hamburg-bred husband-and-wife owners Kai Flache and Anja Voth collect recipes from early-20th-century German cookbooks. They use nearly 100 percent organic, local, seasonal, sustainably sourced, pesticide- and cruelty-free components, including grass-fed beef — but best of all, they make many of their key ingredients in-house. Flache and Voth make their own yogurt, press their own apples, brew their own fruit syrups, and flake their own oats from full kernels. Voth not only bakes her own bread and rolls, but actually mills her own whole-wheat flour. Breakfast, lunch, teatime, and supper menus augment an all-day pastry array. $$

Hudson

5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. Rockridge's ever-popular Marzano/Garibaldi's complex has spawned a casually elegant Italian-accented New American hangout complete with cocktail lounge, tomates de Meyer lemon tagliatelle, and truffled Yukon Gold potato cakes. Some of the dishes are overly fussy, but the mussel-calamari piece, the duck breast with pumpkin spaetzle, the bluenose bass with sherry brown butter, and the milk chocolate ganache tart with olive oil ice cream are delectable. Phantasmagoric cocktail menu, starkly cool setting. $$$$

Pin Toh

2227 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8424. Pin Toh distinguishes itself among Berkeley's many Thai restaurants with a keen knack for cooking fresh vegetables to such perfection that their freshness is the first thing you notice about every dish. Even humble carrots, cabbage, and broccoli shine. Vietnamese pho accompanies many classic Thai dishes, from satay to tom kha to Thai iced tea, in a stylishly green-lit, black-walled space that even in daytime evokes the moody mien of a spacecraft doubling as a dance club. A separate 37-item vegetarian menu augments the standard flesh-filled menu, offering meat-free curries and intriguing entrées such as a house-special pumpkin curry and a cashew-based stir-fry. $

The Bread Project Café

2706 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-4575. Located in the Berkeley Adult School's hangar-like and mostly empty multipurpose room, this inspiring little nonprofit serves bargain-price breakfasts and lunches along with soups, panini, and a wide variety of baked goods — made by ex-prison inmates, ex-drug addicts, the formerly homeless, and others who once found themselves down and out. You can't beat the thick-crusted personal pizzas, a complete meal topped with meat and/or pickled red onions and hefty goat-cheese chunks. And the tasty baked goods run the gamut from scallion to Asiago cookies to rye bread. $

Addie's Pizza Pie

[illegible] Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-547-[illegible]. Its signature thin-crust California-style pies star at this Berkeley pizza parlor housed in an impressive (if unpromising) circa 1906 bank building. The Blossom (mushrooms, fontina, and thyme) is rich and luscious; the Derby (broccolini, ricotta, and lemon zest) is sprightly and refreshing; and the seasonal Harvest just might feature butternut squash, sage, and goat cheese. Salads include a lush, delectable warm spinach and mushroom, and there's lemon custard for dessert. Impressive beer list. $$$

510-845-3355. (Indian/Pakistani/Sushi/Halal) $

EL CERRITO RICHMOND & NORTH

Best Burrito 10290 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-8158. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Hot Pot Bbq 3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-8001. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 3288A Pierce St., Richmond, 510-527-3888. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

The Hotel Pick 20050 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-237-3383. (Armenian/Seafood) $$-$$$

Master Chip Cafe 309 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-931-6766. (American/Californian) $$

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576. (American) $$$

Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-236-3318. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $-$$

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A Street Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558. (French) $$$

Buon Appetito 937 B St., Hayward, 510-247-0770. (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1705 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-895-8008. (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

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Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, 510-581-3222. (Barbecue) $$

Grand Taipei 24036 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-7133. (Chinese) $$

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LAST CALL

Cold Ones from the Land of Warm Beer

Commonwealth Cafe and Pub leads localist beer drinkers across the pond.

Devotees of West Coast microbrews may be some of the last to embrace stodgy British beer. Brews from California and the Northwest are often loaded with bitter and aromatic hops, infused with all manner of fruit flavorings, or made to sip with a slice of lemon in the sun; spend enough time around them and anything else can seem ... well, uncivilized. But Great Britain has a little secret. A visit to Oakland's **Commonwealth Cafe and Pub** (2882 Telegraph Ave.), not far from Uptown establishments pouring the likes of **Lagunitas** IPA and **Pyramid** Haywire Hefeweizen, may just shake that Californiaphile foundation to the core.

Sure, Commonwealth has locals on the draught menu — **Firestone Walker**, **Drake's**, **Marin Brew Co.** — but the more noteworthy bottle list features fourteen beers from Scotland and nineteen from England, plus a pair from maligned Australia and New Zealand. None of these countries are known for quality beer stateside, especially to the West Coast microbrew snob, but as we learned on a recent visit, dismissing them is a big mistake. In fact, despite the generally smoother, subtler flavors, more conventional brewing methods, and oft absurd names (to wit: Old Engine Oil, Banana Bread, Santa's Swally) that initially inspired trepidation, lesser-known brews of the British Isles earned a place in our refreshment repertoire. Brava, as they say.

We started with **Morland Brewery**'s Old Speckled Hen (440 mL, $4, 5.2 percent), an English beer whose style was not indicated on the menu. Instead of asking, we just ordered. Turns out it's a "fine ale" with a rich amber color. The label boasts — quite quaintly, we thought — that it pairs perfectly with "Sunday roasts, cured meats, and cheese." Much as in **Boddington's** and **Guinness**, the tall can comes equipped with a nitrogen ball to achieve a smooth, airy, draught-like mouthfeel; sipping the frothy head was a bit like consuming a cloud. Its taste recalled Boddington's, but spicier. Whip out the meats and cheese, or drink alone.

Despite its humdrum name, we couldn't resist sampling a bottle of **Meantime Brewery**'s London Porter (330 mL, $8, 6.5 percent). And we got just what we wanted: a porter completely unlike those we're accustomed to. Instead of being blander than its American counterparts, this one's decidedly richer: a deep black brew with a strong coffee nose. Its flavor has a hint of **Newcastle Brown Ale**, also out of England, but goes leaps and bounds beyond. The sweet, heavy beer imparted flavors of caramel, candy, and more coffee over a traditional bitter porter base.

For the sake of novelty, we tried to avoid the ubiquitous India Pale Ale. But sure enough, **Belhaven Brewery** of Scotland's Twisted Thistle (500mL, $6, 6.1 percent) came bottled as an IPA. Fortunately, it bears little to no resemblance to an American IPA. Its orange, almost effervescent color speaks more of an amber, while the taste could pass for a flavorful pale. In other words, it's an IPA with none of the bite and most of the bitterness — suitable for American consumers not too high on hops. We found it refreshing, drinkable, and well-balanced: another winner.

For dessert, there's the chocolate stout float: a bottle of bitter, dark-chocolate-flavored **Young's Double Chocolate Stout** of England poured over creamy vanilla ice cream ($7). Like everything else we tried, it was delicious — and not only because it was different.

— Nora Schwerich

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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La Borinqueña Mexicatessen 582 7th St., Oakland, 510-444-9984. Separates $-$$

Sweet Sugar Kation 7534 Mondola Parkway, Oakland, 510-889-7885. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965. (Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350. (Barbecue) $$

Huynh 383 15th St., Oakland, 510-830-5238. (Vietnamese) $$

OAKLAND-EAST

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Gaylord's Restaurant 3730 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4795. Separates $

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Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-0900. (Barbecue) $$

Full Bowl Cafe 2719 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2280. (American/Diner) $

El Bigotito/Aztecas 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-538-2186. (Mexican) $

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Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Boot and Shoe Service 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668. (Pizza/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable)

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Latino 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-8134. (French) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Commonwealth Cafe and Pub 2882 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-663-5001. (English/Irish/Sports Bar/Coffeehouse) $

Enoteca Molinari 5474 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-4078. (Italian/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (American/California Cuisine/Italian/Pizza/New American) $$$

[illegible] Oakland 5403 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-4400. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

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CONTINENTAL SHIFT

Asia is a big place, but the San Francisco Asian American Film Festival can handle it.

By Kelly Vance

The **San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival**, now in its 29th year, has been working overtime to expand its appeal. These days, no self-respecting urban film festival — especially one that's trying to rope in young, upscale professionals — should go out the door without a redesigned logo and tagline, a video-gaming component, panel discussions on digital media and marketing, a few spoken-word and performance programs, and at least one evening of live music and DJs.

The eleven-day Asian American fest has all that. But somewhere on the way to packaging what its director **Stephen Gong** of the **Center for Asian American Media** is calling "the most ambitious festival in our history," the center managed to find a typically diverse and arguably worthwhile lineup of films.

Festival audiences are encouraged to dig down deep into the offerings. That's where potentially overlooked jewels like ***Sampaguita, National Flower*** are to be found. In a remarkably satisfying change of pace from sugary teenage love stories and routine overseas assimilation dramas, *Sampaguita* takes us to street level in the Philippines, where an army of impoverished children awakes each day and immediately goes to work earning enough pesos to get something to eat.

Writer-director **Francis Xavier Pasion** frames what might have been a monotonously depressing social-problem story — more or less a staged documentary using non-actors — with a generous helping of Filipino-style humor. Even when the subject is grubby ragamuffins scurrying around selling garlands of the fragrant national flower through car windows in the middle of Metro Manila traffic, Pasion's playful on-screen list of ironic "national symbols" (including a dead bird) assures us that these kids are not prohibited from having a tiny bit of fun. Marlon Maya, Rosalyn, Reynalyn, and the rest of the urchins are dependably adorable, but should you run into them, be sure to keep your hand on your wallet.

Filmmaker Pasion has obviously done his homework, from Luis Buñuel to Hector Babenco to Lino Brocka. *Sampaguita's* great achievement is giving the poorest of the poor a ruddy human face — the pathos sneaks up on us instead of parading down the avenues with trumpets blaring. *Sampaguita, National Flower* plays Wednesday, March 16, at **Pacific Film Archive** (2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) as well as twice at the **Sundance Kabuki** (1881 Post St., San Francisco).

[illegible]

Five minutes into **Zeina Durra**'s ***The Imperialists Are Still Alive!*** we might be tempted to shout "Eek! Hipsters!" But don't let the overworked Lower Manhattan milieu scare you away. This post-trendy slice of a certain kind of New York City life makes its points the hard way, with graceful, seductive characterization.

Visual artist Asya (winningly played by **Élodie Bouchez** as a sort of international Parker Posey) is a Bosnian-Palestinian-Jordanian who photographs herself nude with a head scarf to make a point about what's seen and unseen. Javier (**José María de Tavira**) is a lawyer from Mexico City studying for his Ph.D. When they get together with their fashionista/scenemaker friends in and around Asya's Chinatown studio, we become convinced that either a) cultural revolutionaries can enjoy urban fun like everyone else, or b) even party kids can join the general upheaval.

Writer-director Durra, a native of London, takes her cue from **Whit Stillman**'s microscopic epics of New York life (*Metropolitan*, *The Last Days of Disco*), but with a crucial difference. Where Stillman's films concentrate on a narrow demographic wedge of New Yorkers, mainly WASPs, Durra thrills in throwing as many cross-national characters as possible into the mix (and uses Stillman himself in cameo). Asya's chief worry in the opening days of the Israel-Lebanon war is the safety of her brother in Beirut. Her "CIA spy" paranoia is played for laughs, but uneasily. Between Asya's Arabic and Javier's Spanish, they can talk to half the taxi drivers and maintenance men in NYC. Sometimes that's not so wonderful. Don't miss it when this one screens at Pacific Film Archive on Saturday, March 19.

Anna May Wong never kissed her leading man in any of her Hollywood movies. That's the most startling fact in ***Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words***, filmmaker **Yunah Hong**'s highly watchable documentary profile of the perpetually fascinating Ms. Wong (1905-1961), the Asian-American movie superstar that somehow never was. "Never was" mostly because of Hollywood racism, as Hong's doc takes pains to demonstrate. The industry didn't quite know what to do with sultry, provocative Anna May, a third-generation Chinese American who was born in Los Angeles Chinatown and started working in "the pictures" at age fourteen.

San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

March 10-20 at the Pacific Film Archive and venues in San Francisco and San Jose

As impersonated poignantly by actor **Doan Ly** (re-creating Wong's cabaret act) and accompanied by period stills and footage, Wong's career was permanently stalled by mainstream Yankee attitudes toward Asians in general and Asian women in particular. Her beauty and assertive screen presence clearly marked her for stardom, but in the manner of innumerable black and Latino players, her roles existed in a ghetto of [illegible] perceptions.

Tired of portraying slave girls and other doomed exotic temptresses in American films, Wong fled to Europe and became a top-billed sensation for all the same dubious reasons. The most outrageous insult came when she was passed over for the starring role of O-Lan in MGM's 1937 *The Good Earth*. German emigrant Luise Rainer got the part, in company with a cast of Caucasians with taped-up eyes playing Chinese. Wong never got that breakthrough Hollywood role. But thanks to Hong, Ly, and a steadfast cult of admirers, she's as popular today as she was in 1929. *Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words* shows at PFA on Sunday, March 13, and two times at the Kabuki.

The hero of **Chuck Mitsui**'s ***One Kine Day*** is Alston, a quintessentially dark-and-laid-back Oahu teenager (played by **Ryan Greer**) who is revving up his jets for a career as either a skate-shop clerk or a junior-grade pakalolo dealer — whichever comes first. This is the first Hawaiian movie told from the contemporary locals' point of view — meaning that Alston and his friends are stoned and/or drunk a good percentage of the time, fighting off Vegas Mike and his thugs with the help of the guys next door, and generally bluffing around. The dialogue may require subtitles. Has a definite **Cheech and Chong** feel, minus the jokes. Catch it at the Kabuki on Friday, March 11, or at **VIZ Cinema** (1746 Post St., San Francisco) on Monday, March 14.

Also worth a look: a reprise of **Nonzee Nimibutr**'s 1999 Thai horror movie ***Nang Nak***, in which a village man returns from war to discover by slow degrees that his wife and child are ghosts. *Nang Nak* keys **After Dark: Horror Cinema From Southeast Asia**, a three-film mini series within the fest, curated by **Masashi Niwano**. ***Dog Sweat*** is filmmaker **Hossein Keshavarz**' clandestinely produced story of disaffected young adults in Tehran, Iran, where dodging the morals police seems to be a full-time occupation. In the amiable Chinese character study ***The Piano in a Factory***, director ***Zhang Meng***'s humor-laced tale of a ragtag orchestra of laid-off factory hands amid one city's industrial decay, the characters spend as much time scrambling for food as playing their instruments.

Add to the above: ***Peace***, director **Kazuhiro Soda**'s gentle Japanese documentary about a husband-and-wife team of volunteer caregivers who can't let go of their clients, or their army of stray cats; ***Amin***, documenting an Iranian player/scholar's dedication to traditional Qashqai music, directed by **Shahin Parhami** (it's an ethnomusicologist's delight); and, from Indonesia, ***Tales of the Waria***, **Kathy Huang**'s light-hearted study of cross-dressing men trying to reconcile their love lives with Islamic teachings. *Nang Nak* (Thursday, March 17) and *The Piano in a Factory* (Friday, March 18) are both showing at PFA.

M/F Remix appears to be the unfortunate result of film professor and one-time **Jean-Luc Godard** collaborator **Jean-Pierre Gorin**'s involvement with the film project of one his UC San Diego students, **Jy-ah Min**. In an attempt to appropriate the images and social critique of Godard's 1966 film ***Masculin Féminin*** for an updated antiwar tale of its times (2004), first-time auteur Min's elliptical, tone-poetic portrait of a pair of Asian American roommates suffers badly in comparison with the Godard — even after lifting several scenes from the earlier film, not as ballast. Both the dialogue and the music score are weak. Ms. Min is not Raoul Coutard, San Diego is not Paris. But Mimi (**Mimi Goh**) and Phil (**Philip Westmoreland**) are fairly interesting when not being pushed and pulled through the topical wringer. It screens Wednesday, March 16, at PFA.

More hits than misses. More good news than bad news. Plenty to talk about in the coffee houses. What more could one ask of an adventurous 21st-century cosmopolitan film festival? For up-to-the-minute program schedules and general festival information, visit CAAMedia.org.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Battle: Los Angeles Sci-fi thriller about an alien invasion of Los Angeles. Directed by Jonathan Liebesman, written by Christopher Bertolini, and starring Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez, and Bridget Moynahan. (116 min.) CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, GB, BH, GL

I Am Attention-based [illegible] in which director Tom Shadyac asks [illegible] leaders, and the old [illegible] what they consider the biggest problems facing the world today are, and how to fix them. Featuring Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, and [illegible] (76 min.) S

The Last Lions Renowned wildlife filmmakers Beverly and Dereck Joubert spent six years shooting this National Geographic documentary, which stresses the rapid decline in the world's lion population. After an African lion is killed by a rival pride, its mate and three cubs end up on an island in a Botswana river delta, where the [illegible] encounters a large herd of aggressive buffalo — enemies just as deadly as [illegible] [illegible] (A.G.) CAPH, S

Mars Needs Moms Computer-animated sci-fi [illegible] about a kid (Seth Green) whose mom (Joan Cusack) is kidnapped by aliens and must be rescued. Directed by Simon Wells, written by Simon and Wendy Wells, and also starring Dan Fogler and Tom Everett Scott. (88 min.) CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CH, BH, GL

Of Gods and Men High in the Atlas Mountains of Algeria in the mid-1990s, a group of French Trappist monks live the monastic life — meditating, praying, studying, and providing medical care for people in the nearby village. But their solitude is threatened by a band of anti-government Islamist rebels who see them as part of the "organized plundering" of French colonialism. Director Xavier Beauvois (Le Petit Lieutenant) keeps the drama [illegible] themselves, with a [illegible] by veteran actor Michael Lonsdale as [illegible] Luc. Scenario by Étienne Comar, adapted by Beauvois [illegible] Christian. (122 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, [illegible]

Red Riding Hood Horror-fantasy adaptation of the classic folk tale set in a medieval town that's being terrorized by a werewolf. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, adapted by David Leslie Johnson, and starring Amanda Seyfried, Gary Oldman, and Billy Burke. CWC, GB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CH, BH, GL, S

ONGOING

The Adjustment Bureau [illegible] thriller/romance nevertheless yields [illegible]. Adapted from a short story by science fiction author Philip K. Dick, the slender, schematic tale tells of an ascendant New York City politician (Matt Damon) whose budding relationship with a dancer (Emily Blunt) keeps getting thwarted by fedora-hatted, super-powered agents — can we call them "guardian angels"? — determined to make the would-be lovers conform to a mysterious "plan." Damon and Blunt are quite appealing by themselves [illegible] hands all the secret-door stuff? Costarring Anthony Mackie, John Slattery, and Terence Stamp as the guy's [illegible]. Screenplay and direction by George Nolfi, who co-wrote The Bourne Ultimatum. (106 min.) (K.V.) BP, CWC, GB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CAPH, [illegible], BH, [illegible], PM, S, CRC, RH, [illegible], UAEB

Another Year Mike Leigh in a [illegible] mood than usual. The veteran writer-director of insightful ensemble dramas (Happy-Go-Lucky, Vera Drake, Topsy-Turvy) here meditates on aging and [illegible] in general, [illegible] by a strong cast of [illegible] stock company stalwart Lesley Manville heads the [illegible] as Mary, a lonely, middle-aged office worker [illegible] out of any chance of happiness, with Ruth Sheen, Jim Broadbent, Peter Wight, Oliver Maltman, [illegible], and Martin Savage in close pursuit. Leigh's largely-improvised dialogue matches his superb [illegible]. It's his gift to be able to [illegible] beautifully [illegible] characters, [illegible] Recommended. (129 min.) (K.V.) S

Barney's Version Paul Giamatti puts on his [illegible] ways [illegible] Barney Panofsky, author Mordecai Richler's self-destructively [illegible] Jewish [illegible]. Barney's [illegible] misadventures with various wives and girlfriends (Rosamund Pike, Minnie Driver, Rachelle Lefevre), his police [illegible] (Dustin Hoffman) [illegible] (132 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Beastly Reassuringly [illegible] youth-market update of Beauty and the Beast [illegible] Kyle (Alex Pettyfer) gets transformed by the school witch (Mary-Kate Olsen) into an ugly guy (overly theatrical makeup), and the only way to break the spell is for him to convince someone to say "I love you." That's where Vanessa Hudgens comes in, as the girl who imparts valuable life lessons. Another [illegible] Daniel Barnz, who adapted the screenplay from Alex Flinn's novel. (85 min.) (K.V.) [illegible] BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, RH, JL, UAEB

Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son Latest installment in the venerable Big Momma's [illegible] starring Martin Lawrence as the cross-dressing title character. Directed by John Whitesell, written by Matthew Fogel and Don Rhymer, also starring Brandon T. Jackson. BP, CH, CB, CUC, RH, JL, UAEB

Biutiful Overstuffed with misery and [illegible]. But then, that's usually the case with a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel, 21 Grams). Actor Javier Bardem does what he can with the role of Uxbal, a terminally ill resident of Barcelona who makes the rounds among his troubled family, a factory full of suffering Chinese immigrant workers, his squad of illegal African street vendors, and the ghosts of Christmas past, but [illegible], who wrote the screenplay with Armando Bo and Nicolás Giacobone, [illegible] every scene. The last straw is probably the [illegible] [illegible] (147 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Black Swan Natalie Portman's performance as a [illegible] ballerina [illegible] Darren Aronofsky's psychological thriller, which isn't that different [illegible] Portman portrays Nina, up for the lead part in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and bedeviled by a rival dancer (Mila Kunis), the ballet company's director (Vincent Cassel), and her [illegible] mother (Barbara Hershey) — but Nina's biggest problem are of

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule: **AL** = Landmark Albany; **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BH** = Cinemark Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = CineArts Pleasant Hill; **CB** = Century Berkeley; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHT** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Regal Crow Canyon; **CSC** = Chabot Space and Science; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = AMC Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Regal Jack London; **N8** = Naz 8; **OR** = Orinda; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PIE** = Landmark Piedmont; **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = Rheem Theater; **S** = Landmark Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano

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"SUPERB!" -Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
"A MASTERPIECE!" David Germain, ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAMBERT WILSON MICHAEL LONSDALE
OF GODS AND MEN
A FILM BY XAVIER BEAUVOIS
PG-13
STARTS FRIDAY MARCH 11TH

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her own making. [illegible] Roman Polanski and Michael Powell (The Red Shoes), but Aronofsky and co-adapter [illegible] (with Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, and John J. McLaughlin, from Heinz's story) [illegible] Major credit to all four main actors. Without them the story might never have [illegible] (107 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Cedar Rapids Aims for the sweeter side of the street than The Hangover, although leading man Ed Helms, as an incredibly innocent small-town insurance agent [illegible] that Cedar Rapids is his Las Vegas. Maybe that's why Alexander Payne (About Schmidt, Election) signed on as executive producer. Playing the ultra-straight man's boozin companions are John C. Reilly, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Anne Heche, Alia Shawkat, and Kurtwood Smith. Could easily be rigged as a TV sitcom, and probably will. Directed by Miguel Arteta (Youth in Revolt) from a screenplay by Phil Johnston. (86 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, CA, PM, UAEB

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, [illegible] unearthed by paleontologists and portrayed in giant [illegible] CSC

Drive Angry A riot of absolutely [illegible] performances [illegible] Nicolas Cage, [illegible] Fichtner, and model Amber Heard [illegible] (Cage) [illegible] his granddaughter from a [illegible] the [illegible] playing and [illegible] and mostly [illegible] a big-budget update of Seventies exploitation [illegible] The movie was shot in 3-D [illegible] (104 min.) [illegible]

The Eagle In the heart of the Roman Empire [illegible] a Roman legionary officer Marcus [illegible] Aquila (Channing Tatum) and his [illegible] slave (Jamie Bell) on a [illegible] mission to the savage North of Scotland [illegible] Kevin Macdonald [illegible] Jeremy Brock's screenplay — adapted from Rosemary Sutcliff's novel The Eagle of the Ninth [illegible] (114 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Even the Rain [illegible] Spanish filmmakers (Gael García Bernal and Luis Tosar) [illegible] Bolivia [illegible] local people [illegible] the water supply — while trying to make a movie about [illegible] Spanish conquistadors [illegible] Paul Laverty (The Wind that Shakes the Barley) [illegible] the Europeans' point of view [illegible] Juan Carlos Aduviri [illegible] (104 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Fighter Better-than-average boxing pic is nevertheless hampered by a [illegible] screenplay and frantic [illegible] Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg), playing a real-life fighter, must overcome the [illegible] of his crack-addicted [illegible] older brother (Christian Bale) and their overbearing mother (Melissa Leo) while trying to punch his way to the top. Also in Micky's corner is his [illegible] girlfriend (Amy Adams). The fight sequences are the best thing about it [illegible] Million Dollar Baby [illegible] Raging Bull [illegible] Why didn't they make this a documentary instead? (114 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Gnomeo and Juliet [illegible] garden gnomes [illegible] Romeo and Juliet [illegible] (90 min.) [illegible]

The Green Hornet [illegible] Waltz makes a fine supervillain in the [illegible] comedy, which revives the late-'60s TV series with Bruce Lee. But writers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg don't give [illegible] Rogen plays the Green Hornet [illegible] Michel Gondry (Be Kind Rewind, The Science of Sleep) [illegible] Cameron Diaz, Tom Wilkinson, [illegible] (119 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Hall Pass The Farrelly Brothers were the kings of [illegible] comedy in the late Nineties and early 2000s (Dumb and Dumber, There's Something about Mary), but [illegible] Owen Wilson and Jason Sudeikis [illegible] (Jenna Fischer and Christina Applegate) [illegible] (105 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

I Am Number Four Sci-fi [illegible] a high school student (Alex Pettyfer) who [illegible] Directed by D.J. Caruso, and adapted for the screen by Alfred Gough, Miles Millar, and Marti Noxon [illegible]

I Saw the Devil Director Kim Jee-woon (The Good, the Bad, the Weird) and screenwriter Park Hoon-jung paint themselves into a corner with [illegible] (Choi Min-sik) and the [illegible] (Lee Byung-hyun) [illegible] Containing [illegible] (144 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Illusionist Animator Sylvain Chomet (The Triplets of Belleville) pays homage to the old French [illegible] Jacques Tati [illegible] an elderly magician [illegible] Scotland [illegible] (90 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Inside Job So who got us into the Great Recession? Greedy banks, rapacious [illegible] and every [illegible] official since Ronald Reagan [illegible] Charles Ferguson (No End in Sight). [illegible] Matt Damon [illegible] (120 min.) [illegible]

Just Go With It Jennifer Aniston [illegible] Adam Sandler [illegible] Cactus Flower (1969) [illegible] Billy Wilder [illegible]

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never You don't need to [illegible] the Canadian [illegible] Madison Square Garden [illegible] (105 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The King's Speech [illegible] Duke of York (Colin Firth) [illegible] King George VI [illegible] Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush) the Australian speech therapist [illegible] Edward VII [illegible]

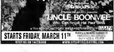
the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson [illegible] Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce, Derek Jacobi, and Michael Gambon [illegible] (118 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible] of ancient Egypt [illegible] CSC

No Strings Attached Ashton Kutcher [illegible] and Natalie Portman [illegible] Greta Gerwig, Kevin Kline [illegible] Ludacris, and Olivia Thirlby [illegible] Elizabeth Meriwether's [illegible] director Ivan Reitman (Kindergarten Cop, Ghostbusters) [illegible] (K.V.) [illegible]

Poetry [illegible] Spanish-language comedy-drama about a man who is forced to [illegible] Fernando Luján, Enrique Arreola and Ari Brickman. (90 min.) [illegible]

Rango Quick-witted animated Western spoof [illegible] and the voice of Johnny Depp as a [illegible] chameleon [illegible] Gore Verbinski (he helmed the Pirates of the Caribbean movies) [illegible]



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rodde tacho proceedings with refrigerator and coroner Kemp Thompson, Clint Eastwood (envied by Timothy Olyphant), Chinatown, etc. But Deep's [illegible] roadmap [illegible] more toward Don Knotts than [illegible] Tingle Lishe and the lively village [illegible] (Isla Fisher, Harry Dean Stanton, Abigail Breslin, Alfred Molina, et al.) are a further advance along the line set by *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. Screenplay by John Logan, [illegible] story [illegible] with Verbinski and James Ward Byrkit. (107 min.) [illegible]

Gnomeo The story of everyone's favorite flaming ball of gas. CDC

Take Me Home Tonight Like Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused* (1993) and George Lucas's *American Graffiti* (1973), this is one of those coming-of-age movies that centers on a single wild night, but Linklater and Lucas were both writing from wellsprings of pent-up nostalgia. Topher Grace, who stars and co-wrote the story, are both too young to have been out partying on Labor Day 1988 — takes the action takes place. As on their TV [illegible] *That '70s Show*, the time period [illegible] extends much further than hairdos, costume design, and soundtrack, and Grace plays an engineering grad slacking off as a video store clerk, who resolves to win the [illegible] in the high school [illegible] (Teresa Palmer), now an investment banker; their odd boy-meets-girl arc (the lies about his job) is economically offset by some potent comic mayhem involving his [illegible] pal (Dan Fogler) and Tisdale, who [illegible] bolder [illegible]. Michael Dowse directed, with Anna Faris, Lucy Punch, and Michelle Trachtenberg. (97 min.) [illegible]

To the Up Astronaut Wonder what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off. (40 min.) CDC

True Grit The Old West is a nastier place in Joel and Ethan Coen's remake of the 1969 John Wayne-Henry Hathaway version of Charles Portis's novel about a broken-down US Marshal named Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) and pressed girl Mattie Ross (impressive newcomer Hailee Steinfeld) on the trail of the scoundrel who murdered Mattie's father. As crisp, sudden and graphic as the violence is, the language

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OF GODS AND MEN (PG-13)
[illegible]

★ THE KING'S SPEECH (R)
[illegible]

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R)
[illegible]

CALIFORNIA 2113 Kittredge near Shattuck, Berkeley
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BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13)
[illegible]

CEDAR RAPIDS (R)
[illegible]

BARNEY'S VERSION (R)
[illegible]

PIEDMONT 4186 Piedmont at 41st, Oakland
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THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13)
[illegible]

★ THE KING'S SPEECH (R)
[illegible]

CEDAR RAPIDS (R)
[illegible]

SHATTUCK 2230 Shattuck at Kittredge, Berkeley
Buy Tix: www.landmarktheatres.com or 777-FILM #014
[illegible]

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13)
[illegible]

THE LAST LIONS (PG)
[illegible]

RED RIDING HOOD (PG-13)
[illegible]

I AM (NR)
[illegible]

ANOTHER YEAR (PG-13)
[illegible]

TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT (R)
[illegible]

★ BLACK SWAN (R)
[illegible]

TRUE GRIT (PG-13)
[illegible]

I SAW THE DEVIL (NR)
[illegible]

EVEN THE RAIN (NR)
[illegible]
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7:00 & 9:30 Shows are 21+ Only

NORA'S WILL (NR)
[illegible]

Screening Lounge
7:25 & 9:45 Shows are 21+ Only

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[illegible]
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[illegible]
A [illegible] Romantic Fantasy
[illegible] Thriller! [illegible] Hollywood Reporter

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
(4:45) 6:55 9:10 PG-13
[illegible]

RANGO
(2:15) 4:30 9:11 PG
[illegible]

ELMWOOD

[illegible]
College Ave at Ashby [illegible]

[illegible]
Schedule for Fri March 11th - Thu March 17th

[illegible]

UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES
(2:00 4:30) 6:00 9:30 NR

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THE FIGHTER
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(3:30) 7:15 R

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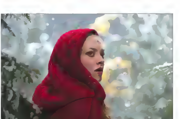

Red Riding Hood

In 19th-century Bowery, as if to point up the discrepancy between the characters' tinted references and the hell inferno of life in Arkansas and the Choctaw Nation, Rocio 1870. Bridges, Pacifield, Josh Brolin, Barry Pepper, and Dakin Matthews (as a horse-trader) [illegible] all fit their roles like a glove, and the Coens' western sprawl — begun with *No Country for Old Men* — continues with a *True Grit*. Ravishing cinematography by Roger Deakins. [illegible] screenplay by Joel and Ethan Coen. (110 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives

GRAND LAKE THEATRE

[illegible]
BEST EAST BAY THEATER
[illegible]

RED RIDING HOOD (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
MON-THUR: 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

RANGO (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:46
MON-THUR: 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 12:15, 2:40, 4:45, 7:00, 9:00
MON-THUR: 4:45, 7:00, 9:00

BLACK SWAN (R)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 1:30, 7:15
MON-THUR: 7:15

UNKNOWN (PG13)
DAILY: 4:15, 9:20

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Cannes Palme D'Or-winning Thai film about a man recalling his past lives as he faces death. Written and directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul and starring Thanapat Saisaymar, Jenjira Pongpas, and Sakda Kaewbuadee. (114 min.) [illegible]

Unknown Screenwriters Oliver Butcher and Stephen Cornwell take a provocative premise—an American scientist in Berlin loses his passport and his identity, after which even his wife cannot see him as Liam Neeson—and spin it into standard-issue improbability. The starry cast is anchored by Liam Neeson as the bewildered hero and includes January Jones (*Mad Men*) as the wife, a Hitchcockian cool blonde; Diane Kruger as a spunky Bosnian cab driver; and, of all, Bruno Ganz as an investigator who learned his trade in the East German Stasi. But the snow and hope that Spanish director Jaume Collet-Serra (*Orphan*) keeps pumping into the street scenes seem to have drifted into the script as well. (109 min.) [illegible]

Winter's Bone Writer-director Debra Granik made her feature debut with *Down to the Bone* (2004), a stark working-class drama with Vera Farmiga giving a standout performance as a coke-addicted young mother. Farmiga has since moved on to more upscale projects, but with this one Granik moves even farther from the economic ladder, to the piss-poor Ozarks. A 17-year-old girl (Jennifer Lawrence) struggles to care for her mentally incapacitated mama and two younger siblings. The situation grows even more bleak after her daddy, wanted for cooking crystal meth, signs their home over to a bail bondsman and then disappears, and needs to find him before the family is evicted, but the murderous meth dealers he supplied want him to stay lost. The look and feel of a 21st-century [illegible] is completely persuasive, heightening the drama immeasurably; the movie wouldn't be half as suspenseful if Granik hadn't pushed us into this [illegible] of [illegible] and poverty. With John Hawkes. (99 min.) [illegible]

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Strangers and Friends [illegible] (71 min., 2009-11). Artists in person. Film and Video Makers in Cal (PFA, 7:00)

King Lear (180 min., 2011). National Theatre Live (PCE, 7:00)

Days in Between (85 min., 2008). Introduced by Eleonora Bilingual International (JP, 1:30)

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Abraxas (112 min., 2010). San Francisco International Asian Film Festival (PFA, 7:00)

Break Up Club (115 min., 2010). San Francisco International Asian Film Festival (PFA, 7:30)

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Summer Frontier (85 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 4:00)

The Piano in a Factory (118 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 6:30)

Lover in Rooming Circumstances (74 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 9:00)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (98 min., 1975). With band Legal Live. AL, midnight)

Verdi's Rigoletto Opera in Cinema (GL, 9:00 a.m.)

Rope in Space-Out (74 min., 2011). World premiere. [illegible] Theater, 2700 Ransom St., [illegible] 7:00)

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words (57 min., 2010). Preceded by *Saving the Dragon Nomuras* (30 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 3:30)

Charlie Chan at the Olympics (71 min., 1937). With Charlie Chan scholar Yunte Huang in conversation. SFAFF (PFA, 6:00)

Hi, Don't Be Afraid! (90 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 8:00)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

I Wish I Knew (116 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Lipstick (86 min., 1953). Film 50: History of Cinema (PFA, 3:10)

M/F Graph (12 min., 2010). Filmmaker Jy-Ah Min in person. SFAFF (PFA, 1:00)

Sampaguita, Summer Venice (78 min., 2010). SFAFF (PFA, 9:00)

A Dodo Awakening: The Oil Crash (85 min., 2006). Preceded by optional tidings and social and at 6:30 p.m., followed by discussion. Films of Fact and Life (Humanist Hall, [illegible] 7:30)

PRODUCTION ROOM DISPATCHES

During Record Production Month a Zelda jacket becomes inspirational

By Nate Seltenrich

On the first day of February, more than 5,000 suckers for punishment from around the world accepted the RPM Challenge. Their task: Write and record an album of original music — ten songs or 35 minutes — in a mere 28 days. Thirty-four of them lived in the East Bay. And four of them agreed to fill us in via e-mail on all the sordid details, stewing and squatting included. Here are their dispatches:

2/2 Mr. Nuts aka Leslie Shimmin, 37, Oakland I'm starting completely from scratch: no idea, no equipment, nothing. Funny thing is, my friend Matt just hooked me up with this Casio out of nowhere. It's the SK5 series which I used for years and years. It's like my light sabre.

2/3 Alex Jacobs, 36, Berkeley I've recorded my first track for the RPM Challenge. I've listened back a few times and it's amazing to watch the vision of the track, and the album as a whole, change with each listen.

Salem Kimble, 27, Oakland On good days, the songs seem nearly perfect and complete. On bad days, all I can see is how much tweaking and writing they still need.

2/4 Hotel Oakland aka Aaron Strebs, Oakland Wow, it's been an adventure for sure. We almost got evicted from our apartment. We had to move out and now we're at a Motel 6 ... however, I managed to record two songs and film one music video. That's the good thing about being as mobile as my recording devices are.

AJ Good idea: Compose a song in a key where I only have to press the white keys, and I can sound really good on piano. Bad idea: Waste time by clicking 'follow' on every single person who is following @rpmchallenge.

HO SHIT. Bad timing. Really bad timing. The RPM Challenge started and I was hoping to whoop its ass in fourteen days ... in time for Valentine's Day. So far, I'm in over my head. And for the Hotel Oakland, that's pretty hard to do.

2/5 MN I'm treating my album like a samurai sharpens his blade before battle. Calmly. ... Meaning, I haven't done anything yet! But today I will write a theme down and give the ideas some structure. We will see what happens.

2/6 MN Funny, without him even knowing about my RPM project, an old friend left an acoustic/electric guitar for me at my brother's. My bro said he could lend some recording items too. It's fun to start from nothing and see how it develops!

2/7 AJ Latest hang-up: Is playing a Smashing Pumpkins-style guitar solo cool again yet?

Album covers for the RPM Challenge

SK The beauty of a deadline is a magic elixir; makes me so much more effective. Late into the evening, I pruned down the squirmy songs that I've had in rotation that have all their song bits, but never come out having the same order or structure from one run through to the next.

2/10 MN I met a guy wearing a Zelda jacket with a Transformers carry-all. The timing was perfect. He was telling me what it was like to be married and still be into old-school gaming and anime. It totally re-inspired me. I had song ideas down, but no theme. Now I do.

2/14 SK I did it! I did it! Ten songs on piano. Seven vocals. All in one day on Sunday. This is not the final, but is the pre-production for the musicians coming in this next week. Feels sooo good to have some of these old songs finally recorded.

MN It's getting a little scary now! It comes down to the recording process (and device). I'm still stuck on what I can and should buy with my limited cash flow.

2/15 AJ RPM is steadily coming along, and I love the container it provides. If something musical or lyrical comes out of me, no matter how epic or ... seemingly inconsequential, it's cataloged as material to try to work into a song.

2/16 HO Forced into our storage facility here in Jingle Town. I set up shop in the temporary "Hotel Oakland" and pulled a 48 hour rock and roll binge session that included two four hour farmer's market gigs during Friday and Saturday morning and then recording in the evening.

2/17 MN My ideas are becoming more solid. I walk around at work humming spontaneous tunes that will probably turn out to be songs later. Still, how am I going to record this?

2/18 SK Drums! WOohooOO! They make such a big difference. I feel like I've created some original sounds with some of these songs. Bass tomorrow ... cello on Sunday.

2/20 HO Now because I'm alone and pretty much destroyed and desperate, I've been forced to find peace where I can. And that has come in the form of music. The reason I got into music is because I couldn't get a girlfriend. Then music was the reason I had too many girlfriends. Then music was the reason I couldn't keep a girl around. Now having lost them, it's the reason I'm not suicidal.

SK Faith restored across the board. This is such amazing work. I'm absolutely exhausted. Haven't eaten properly the last two days, or caught much daylight. But boy have we done a ton of work.

2/21 AJ After a week of stewing — finally gave birth to my homage to Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band.

MN I spent most of the day figuring out garage band, and I'm proud to say I recorded my first song! Ok, let's see if I can pull this RPM thing off ...

2/22 HO Trying my best to make the best of the worst shit ever. My dad would probably say that the music coming out isn't "blues enough" but I say blues is not a sound, it's a feeling. Sound is secondary. [Editor's note: This would be Hotel Oakland's final correspondence.]

2/23 MN Now I ask the universe: How am I supposed to write music if I'm at work all the time? Aaaagh!

2/24 SK The songs are coming together so well. I'm really happy with them. This process has opened up the doorway, though, to what comes next. How far do I want to go with this music? Am I ready to play live?

AJ Simmering. Letting the flavors and textures infuse the broth. Then one last push for finalizing and mixing, which is a heartbreaking process. Saying goodbye to loved parts. Seeing the songs as they are disappear and move through their transformations into what they will become before they are called "final."

2/25 MN Eight songs almost done. I'm shooting for fourteen. So much going on. I'm going crazy but I love it.

2/26 AJ Just finished my RPM Challenge album and I feel like I marathoned something. It's been quite a ride.

2/27 AJ FINISHED AND POSTED. Going outside to see the sun again ...

MN I want to give all the credit to the Muse (that is, if she wants credit for this). I really never know what's gonna happen when creating music. Anyhoo, another hour and it should be done.

2/28 SK This competition is one of the most worthwhile things I have ever done.

3/1 SK And it's sent!! ●

Nate.Seltenrich@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

The local RPM Challenge listening party happens Saturday, Mar. 26, at The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. UptownNightclub.com. Music will be posted at RPMChallenge.com.

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MARRIED TO THE MOB

Punk Funk Mob is a stylistic mixed marriage

By [illegible] Hildebrand

Punk Funk Mob [illegible]

"We're gonna say it loud! We're funky and proud!" Femi Andrade and Quincy Ramone, co-leaders of **Punk Funk Mob**, wailed over the tightly syncopated grooves of Ramone's low-slung popping bass, his brother **Jeff Logan**'s scratchy **Jimmy Nolen**-inspired guitar chunk-a-chunks, and **Michael Williams**' solidly throbbing traps. The quartet — color-coordinated in black and white — delivered the tune with fierce abandon. It was one of six from the group's ten-song debut CD *Revolution* that comprised its set at last month's second annual **San Francisco Winter Music Festival** at **CellSpace** in the Mission. Femi, who goes by her first name only, jerked and bounced about the stage as she sang and rapped, often kicking her feet in the air to match the aggressiveness of the instrumentalists behind her.

"Have a drink on us," Femi told the audience after "Funky & Proud" came to an abrupt halt. "Tell 'em to charge it to **Leather Feather**," she added.

Femi, who considers herself something of a comedian, was playfully referring to the rather menacing punk band that preceded them on stage. Its members' bodies and faces were covered entirely in white cloth, save for eye slits. Leather Feather, Punk Funk Mob, and the show's headliner, singer-rapper **Keno Mapp**, all record for **Mooremapp Records**, a label run by Mapp and **Fishbone** frontman **Angelo Moore**. Moore, a saxophone slung over his shoulder, served as emcee for the evening and sat in on Punk Funk Mob's closing song, "Funky 2 Me," trading chants with Femi of *oh, oh, hey, hey* and *it's that funk, that funk, that uncut funk that makes me wanna sink*.

Punk Funk Mob's sound, which draws on punk rock, funk, and elements of new wave, is quite a stylistic departure for the singer, who only a few years back was making a name for herself on the Bay Area neo-soul scene with mellow original music reminiscent of **Sade** and **India.Arie**. But the Berkeley-born vocalist admitted she has always been a punk at heart. And she never liked the term "neo-soul," preferring instead to call it "neo-fuckin' soul."

Show Details
At Shattuck Down Low (2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, Mar. 11, 9 p.m. $8-10. ShattuckDownLow.com. And at the Stork Club (2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Mar. 18, 9 p.m. $5. StorkClubOakland.com.

Of mixed African American and Puerto Rican heritage, Femi moved back and forth between Spanish Harlem and East Oakland as a child. She took an early liking to the salsa sounds of **Willie Colon** and the soul music of **Teddy Pendergrass**, **The O'Jays**, and **Earth, Wind & Fire**, as well as to **Joan Baez** and **Joni Mitchell**. "She was my dad's favorite," Femi said of Mitchell. "He just liked skinny white girls with guitars."

In Oakland, where she sang with the **Castleers** at Castlemont High School, her dad took her to both Jehovah's Witness meetings and Church of God in Christ services. Her mom studied Buddhism. "I feel like a hippie in the sense that I have had pretty much every religious experience," she said.

Ramone moved around between Concord, San Diego, and Fresno as a boy, and listened to his parents' **Jackie Wilson** and **Soul Stirrers** records. Then, as a teenager, he heard the **Ramones**.

"That's the first band I wanted to be like," he said. "They just looked cool. They looked ..."

"Bad ass," Femi said, finishing her musical partner's thought.

"They had guitars in their hands," he continued. "They didn't have knives or guns, but they looked like they could have."

"I'm the sixth Ramone," he stated. It's not his real last name, of course, but then it wasn't the real name of any of the Ramones either.

Of Punk Funk Mob's style, he said "It's rooted in funk. It's rooted in **George Clinton** and **Sly Stone** and **Curtis Mayfield**, **Bootsy**, **Slave**, and **Cameo**. But at the same time I listened to **Elvis Costello**, Joni Mitchell, and the Ramones."

"My tastes are kinda varied," Femi added. "... It's almost impossible to not be inspired by rock or pop or new wave, or funk or jazz."

Ramone traces the movement's origins to Fresno, where he was once a member of a regionally popular band called the **Dixons**. He also worked there with funk legend **Fugi**.

Although Rick James popularized the term "punk funk" some thirty years ago, little of his influence can be heard in Punk Funk Mob's music. "Even though he did coin it, he didn't have too much punk in his music," Ramone explained. But Femi said of James: "He was a punk. He was a rude boy."

After relocating from Fresno to Oakland six years ago, Ramone started playing guitar in Femi's soul band. On the side, he began working on his concept for Punk Funk Mob. He tried a couple women as lead singers, but when they didn't work out, he turned to Femi.

"I had some songs written and recorded already," he said. "She just came in and fit right in and added her flavor." She also proved to be an ideal songwriting collaborator.

Since the release of *Revolution* last April, Punk Funk Mob has played on bills with a wide stylistic variety of bands. "We've played with straight punk bands and with straight R&B acts, and then we can get in a hip-hop club and turn it out," Ramone said. "Even though we've always been the odd band that's playing that night, each time we play, we find somebody. We don't fit in nowhere, but we fit everywhere." ◆

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

BIRTH OF SLICK

Avant-jazz, indie hi-fi, and B-Boy rootedness

Endangered Blood

Endangered Blood

While versatile saxophonist **Chris Speed** composed all of the original tunes on the outstanding debut album by the New York avant jazz quartet **Endangered Blood**, the performances suggest an uncommonly well-balanced collective at work. Speed's frontline partner is **Oscar Noriega**, who brings a complex and personal sound on alto sax and bass clarinet. Drummer **Jim Black** is phenomenal as always, and this music is custom-built for his brilliant pratfall precision. **Trevor Dunn**'s contrabass beautifully underpins the proceedings, making the most abstruse patterns sound rooted and deeply musical.

"Plunge" begins with a snaky, meter-skipping funk groove redolent of previous Speed ensembles, but quickly distinguishes itself with heated interplay eschewing the polished sheen exhibited by the earlier *Pachora*. From there, Speed unspools a series of winning and varied compositions, from the bright horns and sprightly rhythm of "Elvin Lisbon" to the hauntingly lyrical "Valya" (featuring a soulful alto solo from Noriega). The driving "Tacos at Oscar's" sounds like **Tristano** tackling Afropop, boasting a probing Speed solo, while the standout "Rare" is a melodic shell game that also happens to be drop-dead gorgeous.

If rangy counterpoint and bracing metric destabilization are the order of the day, Endangered Blood also shows little interest in throwing out the jazz baby with the bathwater. Forms, heads, and solos abound. Turnabout being fair play, the jazz tradition is asked to prove its adaptability in the form of a thrilling odd-meter dash through the Monk classic "Epistrophy."

In a scene awash in sometimes gratuitous recombinations of the same personnel, one hopes that the distinctive Endangered Blood will dig in and stick around. (Skirl Records)

— Nathan Clevenger

Raashan Ahmad

For What You've Lost

Rasp-voiced **Raashan Ahmad** is one of those dyed-in-the-wool B-boys who really means it when he name-checks the five elements, or uses the word "peace" as a salutation. And his new solo album employs a lot of familiar B-boy tropes. He has the requisite nostalgia track ("In Love with Wax") in which he quotes lyrics from some of his antecedents (**Wu-Tang Clan, Cypress Hill, Craig Mack, KRS-One, Digable Planets**, etc.). He has the answering machine intro, courtesy of **Crown City Rockers** band mate **Woodstock**. He has slick, melodic beats, complete with trumpet fills and even a couple of sax solos. He anchors the album with a fervent, socially conscious rap that covers everything from addiction to human trafficking. Called "Beautiful Ugly," it's remarkably revealing despite being diffuse. Ahmad starts off with an all-around lament about the state of the world, but in the second verse he delves into personal woes like the death of his mother.

Sincerity and a sense of rootedness might explain Ahmad's staying power in a notoriously fickle genre. But a lot of his appeal lies in the musicality of his album. Ahmad hired a motley crew of producers — including **Paper Plane Project** of Australia and **Mitsu** of Japan, as well as his own Crown City brethren — which would seem like a risky move. In this case, it works. The album is void of snags and jags: the beats are unrumpled and beautiful. But the real payoff is Ahmad's gravelly, seductive rap cadence. You'll even forgive him for rhyming the words "feel" and "miracle" (*mir-ih-kull*) on the last track. (A Champion Sound)

— Rachel Swan

Dum Dum Girls

He Gets Me High

Over the last couple of years, "lo-fi" has become an especially pertinent term in the indie rock and pop worlds. There have always been bands using C-grade equipment and/or producing cruddy recordings, but with an enormous wave of acts so desperately smitten with this aesthetic, it's become a difficult concept to avoid. In California, **Wavves**, **Best Coast**, and **Deerhoof** rep the lo-fi cause, and until *He Gets Me High*, Los Angeles' **Dum Dum Girls** would have nicely fit into that list, too. In production quality alone, this EP is leagues shinier than the band's last full-length effort, *I Will Be*, in which smart pop songwriting and sub-par (read: lo-fi) production coalesced to stellar effect.

Even though Dee Dee has lost some of her defiant vocal luster in the clean-up, the lead Dum Dum still sounds pretty great. The frontwoman's feminine croon has the brazen, tonal possibilities of **PJ Harvey**, but Dee Dee keeps her material tight and understated, conducting herself with the humility of a gorgeous girl unaware of how attractive she is. While the music has shed the bulk of its girl group energy for something more mature and nuanced, this new material has its own alluring sparkle. The title track is the closest thing here to pre-*High* Dum Dum Girls, with swift garage rock sizzling under amiable harmonies. The other originals — "Take Care of My Baby" and "Wrong Feels Right" — are more worth your attention. "Take" is a poignant, hazy, slow-dance tune, and "Wrong" starts off innocuous but blooms spectacularly. These two make excellent additions to the Dum Dum's already-strong discography. The last thing on here is a competent rendition of **The Smiths**' "There Is a Light." Overall, *High* signals the young band leaving lo-fi behind for a promising new paint job. (Sub Pop)

— Regan Ah

LOCAL LICKS

American Nomad

Temple Sunrise EP

The salty love song that kicks off American Nomad's EP seems to encapsulate the group's sensibility. Singer **Hassan El-Tayyab** describes himself as a committed bachelor who suddenly has a change of heart. **Mary Redente** provides lean background harmonies, while **Ben Andrews** tears away at his fiddle. But for the occasional electric guitar lick from **Justin Portill**, Nomad is an old-timey jug band. (self-released)

At El Rio (3158 Mission St., San Francisco) on Apr. 27, 9 p.m., $5.

Beats Antique

Blind Threshold

With a vast arsenal of glitchy electronic sounds at their fingertips, the members of Beats Antique manage to create a wide-ranging sonic palette. They'll happily insert a long, brassy interlude right in the middle of a dance track. Intricate baroque orchestration gives the illusion of a larger band, though in reality, it's a mix of live and sampled instruments stitched together by three producers. (Antique Records)

At The Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco) on Mar. 25, 9 p.m., $20.

Jim Greer

Ginger Vision

After making his name as part of **The Rondo Brothers**, a successful Oakland production team with a lofty CV, Jim Greer has refashioned himself as a solo act. His new disc combines nostalgic garage rock with a few slack torch songs, all sung in emo-boy alto. Apparently, Greer no longer forces the nickname "Diamond Jim." His persona on this album is much more muted. (WanChant Records)

Charles Thomas

The Colors of a Dream

Bassist **Charles Thomas** is remarkably versatile. His album touches just about every part of the jazz ecosystem, beginning with an up-tempo Latin burner and proceeding with swing tunes, a bossa nova, and an old-school torch song. He's chosen an equally nimble cast of backup musicians, including pianist **Matt Clark**, drummer **Sly Randolph**, trombonist **Danny Armstrong**, and brazen trumpeter **Mike Olmos**. (Sea Ten Music) ■

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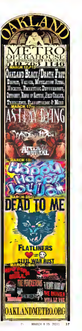
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TOM RIGNEY & FLAMBEAU
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WED 3/16 8:30 pm $12 $10 [illegible]
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REGGAE
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FRI 3/18 9:00 pm $15
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TRIO GARUFA
NARIS VOLONTÉ
URUBAMBA
8:00 pm Argentine Tango [illegible]

3/19 [illegible] and [illegible]
3/20 [illegible] YA ROCK, DJs
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[illegible] — DJ Liebowitz plays Happy Hour Punk Piano
SUN Mar. 13th 8:30pm — Fantastic Planet Fashion Show by Zipporah Ross w/ DJ Casey Brown
TUE Mar. 15th 8:00pm — Joe Quinones spins Vinyl Disco Night!
WED Mar. 16th 7:15pm — Vijay Anderson Quartet (Jazz)
THUR Mar. 17th 8:00pm — St. Patrick's Day with The Shark Alley Hobo's and DV's Corned Beef Special
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Ms. Lauryn Hill: Tickets go on sale Friday, March 11, at 10 a.m. Tue., April 12, 8 p.m., $66.50. The Warfield, 982 Market St.

Outside Lands: [illegible] go on sale Friday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Aug. 12-14, [illegible] $[illegible] 3-day Eager Beaver Tickets. Golden Gate Park, 501 Stanyan St.

[illegible]: [illegible] go on sale Thursday March 10 at 10 a.m. Tue., April 26, 8 p.m., $46-$125. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Tour: Thu. April 21, 6 p.m., $55-$150. Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, 7th St. at Middle Harbor Rd., Oakland.

THURSDAY 10

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $18.50 - $19.50
Frank Jaffe and guitar, Cafe Van, 7-9 pm, free
[illegible] Cafe, 7-9 pm, donations accepted
The [illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 7:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Thursday Night Jazz Session [illegible] 17th Street Gallery, 8:30 pm

Rock & Pop

A, B & The Sea with The Soft White [illegible] and [illegible] guests, The Uptown, 9 pm, $8
The [illegible] The New Parish, 8 pm, $15, $12
[illegible] Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] [illegible] Live, 7 pm
[illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] Cafe, [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $5
The [illegible] [illegible] Irish Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Afromassive (featuring Members of Albino!) with Humboldt State Calypso Band and Berel Alexander, Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10-$12
[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $12 - $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
McCoy Tyner featuring Gary Bartz, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $25
[illegible] & The George Mesterhazy [illegible] Rrazz Room, 8 pm, $35 - $40, $45
[illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] performs live jazz and swing, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm
The Cave Singers with [illegible], Great American Music Hall

8 pm, $10
Cheap Time with [illegible] and Open Heart, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12 - $14
[illegible] with The [illegible] and Steve Solo & The [illegible], Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] with Edmund Welles, the Independent, 8 pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] and Buckeye Knoll, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Mojito, 8-10 pm, free

FRIDAY 11

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] Unitarian Universalists, 7-9 pm, $5-$10 donation

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & Linda Williams Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $22.50 - $24.50
[illegible] and his [illegible] [illegible] at 8:30 p.m., [illegible] Hall, 8 pm, $15

Classical & Opera

Berkeley West Edge Opera: [illegible] The Carmen Fourdon with [illegible] and [illegible], El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater, 8 pm, $10-$60

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] with Joshua Plong, Alee Karin, Christy Chen, [illegible] Martinez, Sarah [illegible] and George Chen, The Saturn Cafe, 8 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] Hall, 8 pm, $28, $30, $40, $5 - $60
[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $10 - $15

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], The Uptown, 8 pm, free
[illegible] with Mother's Angel, [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] with My Life As a Frog and Spider Hearts, Parkside Lounge, 8 pm, $[illegible]
Prog-By-Prog West: [illegible] Starry Plough, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] with My [illegible] Or Yours?, [illegible], Final Last Words, and [illegible], 7 pm, $10 - $12
[illegible] with [illegible], Fox Theatre, 7 pm, $27.50
[illegible] with [illegible], 7 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ live performers, Washington Inn, 9 pm, $7
[illegible] Prince with [illegible] The Beatles, The New Parish, March 11 & 12, 9:30 pm, $25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $20
[illegible] [illegible] guitar & [illegible] on [illegible], 7:30 pm, free
[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $15
The Melodians with Black Cinderella, Michael Black, Sister I-live, Hotter Tunes, Stevie Culture and Yellow Wall Dub Squad, Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $12-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Zeitgeist Restaurant, 8 pm-midnight, free
[illegible] The Independent, March 11-12, 8 pm, $22
[illegible] with Billy Johnson, [illegible] and La Tanya [illegible] Blues, 8 pm

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] & The George Mesterhazy Quartet Rrazz Room, 8 pm, $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] The Regency Center, 8 pm, $45 - $55
[illegible] with [illegible], Great American Music Hall, March 11-12, 8 pm, $20 - $22
[illegible] with [illegible] The [illegible]
[illegible] with Lyres, [illegible], 8 pm, $10
[illegible] with [illegible] and 7 [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 pm, $10 - $12
[illegible] with [illegible] and DJ Night School, [illegible], 9:30 pm, $8
[illegible] with The Sun Kings, Bimbo's 365 Club, 8 pm, $25
[illegible] Music, 3 pm, free
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] with [illegible] and The Shants, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10 - $12
[illegible] with [illegible], Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $12-$14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, March 11-12, 8 & 10 pm, $35

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] Art House, 8 pm, $15-$20

SATURDAY 12

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

California [illegible] plus special comedy guests, [illegible] Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20
[illegible] (Denmark) [illegible] Cafe, 7-8 pm, donation accepted
[illegible] & [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50, $22.50
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Anderson High School, 7:30 pm
The [illegible] Jazz [illegible] [illegible] Coffee, 4-6:30 pm, free
[illegible] & Joy [illegible], 5:30 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $12
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

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Fri-Sat, March 11-12 BONE THUGS N-HARMONY with LIVE BAND	Fri-Sat, March 11-12 ALBITA
Sun, March 13 MARK INOUYE UNIT	Sun, March 13 VIENNA TENG & ALEX WONG
Mon, March 14 KEVIN MAHOGANY	Tues, March 15 DAN ZEMELMAN QUINTET
Tues, March 15 AUSTIN PERALTA TRIO	Wed, March 16 JUBU & LEGALLY BLYND
Wed, March 16 PAMELA ROSE presents WILD WOMEN OF SONG	Thurs, March 17 STEVE COLEMAN AND FIVE ELEMENTS
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PICKS

Meshell Ndegeocello

Zoroaster

Maybe it's because of **Sleep**, but for whatever reason, the Bay Area has long had a soft spot for dirty, droney stoner-metal (see: abundance of **Electric Wizard** T-shirts). Which is great for the touring careers of bands like **Zoroaster**. In a genre where being static is both an asset and a downer, this Atlanta trio manages to construct repetitive riffs in a far more compelling (and catchy) format than its peers. The trio's brand of psyched-tinged, cosmically trippy stoner doom metal really solidified on 2009's ear-worm *Voice of Saturn*. Last year's *Matador* on the E1 label inserted a jolt of electricity into that template, resulting in faster tempos, more screaming, and more guitar solos. Even *The New York Times* started taking note. Expect the Orange amps to be on eleven when Zoroaster stops by **Thee Parkside** (1600 17th St., San Francisco) on Friday, Mar. 11, with **Woodsister**, **Kvelertak**, and **Begotten**. 9 p.m., $12, $14. TheeParkside.com. — *Kathleen Richards*

Jubu and Legally Blynd

Every now and then a surprisingly intricate guitar solo will slip through the cracks of an otherwise standard-issue pop song. Often it's the work of songwriter and Berkeley High alum **John "Jubu" Smith**, who has written for such artists as **Kelly Price**, **Kenny Lattimore**, **Luther Vandross**, and **Tweet**. As the ultimate man behind the curtain, he's had a spectral presence on Top 40 radio for decades, even if his name isn't that well-known. The elegant guitar part that enhances **Mario**'s seven hit "Just a Friend," is definitely a Jubu Smith touch. So are the nimble plucked chords on Tweet's popular R&B ballad, "Smoking Cigarettes." In the past few years, though, Smith has attempted to gain more recognition and consolidate his own artistic career, namely as leader of the soul band **Legally Blynd**. Flanking Smith's brother **Joe "Pikfunk"** on bass, **Errol Cooney** on guitar, **Chris Johnson** on drums, and **Carl Wheeler** on organ, it's a star-studded cast. Pikfunk served as music director for **Rihanna**. Cooney collaborated with **Ledisi**. Wheeler and Jubu currently tour with **Frankie Beverly & Maze**. Most importantly, though, the band plays all original compositions penned by John Jubu Smith. And for once, he'll get to sing them. At **Oakland Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero) on Wednesday, Mar. 16. 8 & 10 p.m., $16. Yoshis.com — *Rachel Swan*

F. Gragg

Wild Women of Song

Wild Women of Song is a multi-media jazz concert created by **Pamela Rose**. It celebrates some of the unsung Jewish and African American women who were founding mothers of the jazz and blues genres, including **Mary Lou Williams**, **Lil Hardin Armstrong**, **Doris Fisher** and **Bernice Petkere**. Rose sings their songs and tells their stories using archival photos to illustrate their lives and times. With an all-star band that includes pianist **Tammy Hall**, bassist **Ruth Davies**, and sax player **Kristen Strom**, Rose romps through a songbook full of classics, from the familiar to the obscure, bringing them all to life with her charismatic presence and powerful vocals. At **The Contemporary Jewish Museum** (736 Mission St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Mar. 13 (2 p.m., $20), TheCJM.org; and Wednesday, Mar. 16 at **Yoshi's** (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) 8 p.m. $18. Yoshis.com/SanFrancisco — *J. poet*

Meshell Ndegeocello Covers Prince

The East Bay slid into utter chaos when pop superstar **Prince** announced his three February show dates at Oracle Arena. Within a few days, nearly nine hundred scalpers had advertised on Craigslist, while diehard fans paid up to $758 a ticket, so they could be close enough to watch spit fall from the singer's mouth. That alone says something about Prince's longevity. Neo-soul singer **Meshell Ndegeocello** doesn't have quite the same cachet, but she's definitely part of the same lineage as Prince, to whom she'll pay tribute this week. Raised in the DC go-go scene, Ndegeocello is mostly known as a singer and electric bassist, though she's actually proficient in a number of instruments. She careens between genres the way a polyglot might shift between languages, mixing reggae beats and funk bass lines with the soft, murmured vocals of an R&B torch song. As a result, Ndegeocello's tracks are often jaggedly stitched together but they're also startling and beautiful. She'll lead a full band this week at **The New Parish** (579 18th St., Oakland) Friday-Saturday, Mar. 11-12, and at **The Independent** (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Mar. 13. Friday and Saturday shows start at 9:30 p.m., Sunday show starts at 8 p.m. Supporting act **Martin Luther** will cover The Beatles. $25. TheNewParish.com or APEConcerts.com. — *Rachel Swan*

Berkeley West Edge Opera

The two lovers in **Georges Bizet**'s opera *Carmen*, Carmen and Don José, had some serious love-addiction issues that cried out for an intervention. In order to bring their obsession front and center, **Berkeley West Edge Opera**'s Music Director **Jonathan Khuner** and Artistic Director **Mark Streshinsky** have created *The Carmen Fixation*. In their less-than two-hour adaptation performed in English, the location is switched from a cigarette factory to an upscale nightclub, and elements of the libretto are moved around. **Buffy Baggott** stars, with Streshinsky directing and **Robert Aubens** conducting. At **El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater** in El Cerrito High School (540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito) on Friday, Mar. 11 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Mar. 13 at 2 p.m. $29-$69, with discounts for those thirty and under. 510-841-1903 or BerkeleyOpera.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus* ing children's show w/ live dance. La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $6, kids $4.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with Holder (Mammoth Lakes), [illegible] (N.Y.C.), [illegible] (San Jose) [illegible]. Oakland Metro Opera House, 7 pm, $10-$15.

[illegible] with Secret (Italy), [illegible], and Negative [illegible]. 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $8.

One After [illegible] with Two Left Feet and [illegible]. [illegible] Roadhouse, 8 pm, $10.

[illegible] Oakland Metro Opera House, 2 pm, $17.

[illegible] Saturday [illegible] with **[illegible] Whisper** with Big Eagle (featuring [illegible] Davenport) and [illegible]. [illegible], 3-8 pm, $5.

[illegible] with The [illegible], [illegible] Youth, [illegible] The [illegible] and [illegible] Factory. The Uptown, 8 pm, $10.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with Martin Luther covering The Beatles. The New Parish, 9:30 pm, $25.

[illegible] with Foolish Wave, [illegible], and [illegible]. Red House Live, 7 pm, $15, $20.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] and the Afro [illegible] Ensemble with [illegible] Zydeco. Kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with a Cajun [illegible] Zydeco dance lesson, led by [illegible]. [illegible] and African dance lesson led by [illegible]. Ashkenaz, 7 pm, $15-$20.

[illegible] Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, [illegible] Fingers, 9 pm, free.

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$14.

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

[illegible] Night Cafe International, 7 pm, free.

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Italian folk music w/ [illegible]. Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free.

North Mississippi Allstars The Independent, 9 pm, $25.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$72.

[illegible] Rrazz Room, 7 & 9:30 pm, $35, $40, $45.

[illegible] Swedish American Hall, 5:30 pm, $5, $10, $15.

[illegible] multimedia [illegible] revue. OnieCircus, 8 pm, $20.

Rock & Pop

AC/DShe The Independent. All-Girl Tribute to AC/DC with [illegible] and The Only Sons. [illegible], 9 pm, $15.

[illegible] and the [illegible] Trio The Parlante, 8 pm, $6.

[illegible] The Warfield, 8 pm, $31-$49.50.

[illegible] with Cary Brothers and Laura Jansen. Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $21-$22.

Red Fang with [illegible] and [illegible] Café du Nord, 10 pm, $10, $12.

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] Room, 9:30 pm, $8.

[illegible] Complete [illegible] Experience with The [illegible] and [illegible]. Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] 'n Harmony Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 5 pm, $39.50-$79.50.

Tango No. 9 Red Poppy Art House, 8 pm, $12-$20.

SUNDAY 13

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Kaufmann, [illegible] Cash Pony [illegible] Cafe, 7-8 pm, [illegible].

The [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50, $22.50.

California Night plus special comedy guests. [illegible] Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20.

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 pm, $12.

UC [illegible], FolkGroovers [illegible] Ashkenaz, 1:30 pm, $7.

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Presents *The [illegible]* with Buffy Baggott [illegible] conductor Robert [illegible]. [illegible] Center Performing Arts Theater, 2 pm, $25-$89.

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Zellerbach Hall, 7 pm, $40, $56, $70, $110.

Les Percussions de Strasbourg Hertz Hall, 3 pm, $42.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] classic & contemporary jazz. Crème [illegible], 3-6 pm, free.

[illegible] & [illegible] Yoshi's, 5 & 7 pm, $30.

Kids

My Amp Showcase Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $8.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible].

[illegible] Sisters (Dublin, CA), [illegible] (Portland), [illegible] (Sacramento) Feast, and [illegible]. Oakland Metro Opera House, 7 pm, $10, $15.

[illegible] with Until Your Heart Stops (record release), All Teeth, and Man, 924 Gilman, 5 pm, $8.

Love Songs with [illegible], [illegible] for Everything, and [illegible]. [illegible] Mile High Club, 7 pm, $6.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Urban [illegible] Hip-Hop Showcase with [illegible]. [illegible] Music & Style, noon, free.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Puerto Rican Music and Dance [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 2-8 pm, $8-$25.

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[illegible] 608 [illegible] St., 415-986-[illegible]

Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228

The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722

[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge [illegible] Sutter St., 415-[illegible]

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

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C♫C

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge: Melissa Rupp, Lucas Slim, Bear Wood Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm. $7
Moonwashers Acrobats, 4 pm. free
Dayl Murray and Ulatestar Girls Blues Jam, Sam's Tavern, 8:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 8 pm. $25-$77
Story of the Day Sunday Gumbo series, Shelvd, 8 pm. $20-$50, $80 dinner and show
Mark Isaacs & The Unit Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 pm. $15
Dinus Wood & The George Mesterhazy Quartet Rrose Room, 7 pm. $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

Highlower with Gumbo and Agada Mesiah, Shadow of the Hill, 4 pm. $8
Boxton, Gale Distarter with The Wranglers, Boulevard Music Exposed with The Barbary Ghosts, Stan's, 5 pm. $8
Royal Stew with The Teenys (Australia) and Lilac, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm. $6
Gumbo Cowboy with Moonstro and Poor Sons, Hotel Utah, 8 pm. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Go!! CD: Sunbright Megasoulie Combo Wonderland Martin Luther covering The Kooters, The Independent, 9 pm. $15 (sold out)

MONDAY 14

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam McGrath's Pub, 7:30 pm. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

CSU East Bay Jazz Ensembles featuring trombonist Gave Eshelman Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm. $15-$20
Monday Night Jazz Session, Bimbo by Roberto Reyes 871 Street Gallery, 6-11 pm

Rock & Pop

Same Sex Distarter with Throne of Bone and Priesting, Eli's Mile High Club, 8 pm. $8

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish Session Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill, 9 pm. free
Kevin Mahogany in: Old, New, Borrowed, and the Blues Bimbo's, San Francisco, 8 pm. $16

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Open Mic Jazz Jam Hanuelas, 8 pm. free

Rock & Pop

Boxton, Stave with Thee Heartbeats and Paper Bags, Hemlock Tavern, 7:30 pm. $8
The Liar Script with The Boxtons and Heist Anyway, Elbo Room, 8 pm. $5
The Gumbo Gumbo (UK Gumbo Gumbo) with The Freddy House (Sisters of Mercy tribute), Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm. $20

TUESDAY 15

EAST BAY

Juba and Legally Blynd plays Yoshi's Oakland on 3/16

Blues, Folk & Country

Jam Night w/ R.L. Minette, Mojo Lounge, 8:30 pm. free
Steve Noondo & Cindy Marghara Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm. $20.50, $22.50
Jam Gumbo & Moonstro Boxes off at 8 p.m. with a Lloyd and Zabeth Stone, Rolare led by Diane Candle, Jubilee, 9:30 pm. $10

Classical & Opera

Gumbo and Pamela presents The Whole Heyst: Steve Ibe Team and Composers St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4 pm. $16-$32

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Doe Donaldson Yoshi's, 8 pm. $10
Eddie Pinderook Duo w/ Dave Gustin, Cafe Rouge, 8:30 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Steeply Blues Park Club, 9:30 pm. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Acetta Peralta Trio Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm. $18
Jazz Jazz w/ Gerry Gose, Rolare Chalet, 8-9 pm. free
Lounge, Rade Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm. $10
Boxton, Gumbo playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark to 10:1, 10 pm. free

Rock & Pop

The Bookmarx with Passenger & Pilot and Bear Mash Hug Boss, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm. $8
Blogs's Moonstro Park Chalet Brewery, 8:30 pm. free
Harper Blynn with Schuyler Fisk and Ring Baldwin, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm. $10
Yoo-Ming (Hongkomb) with Andrew Lincoln Levy (Teach-Me-Radio) and Andy Blondo (Cub, Boston), Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm. $8

WEDNESDAY 16

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Michelle Shocked Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm. $18.50, $20.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Doe Fuer & the Beach Stave Rossini's Roadhouse, 8:15 pm. free
Colleen, Lounter, Lolla Mario Dee Cafe, 7-8 pm. donations accepted
Lim Jon Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm. free
Will Boxton, piano music, Compo di Stone, 8 pm. free

Rock & Pop

Pirate Cat Blues Presents: Big Tide! This week: Here Come The Saviours, Spandeck, and Spokesman, The Uptown, 9 pm. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Juba & Legally Blynd Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm. $15
Soul Priest Ardmore, 8:30 pm. $10-$12

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Boxton, Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm. $25-$77
Doe Blanket and the Moodie Gumbo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm. $10
Boxton, w/ the Mitch Marcus Boxton, Jazzmatz, 8 pm. free
Pamela Rose & Wild Boxton of Song Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm. $18

Rock & Pop

Cupcakes Rainbow Waste in Boxton, Composers with Gumball Recorder, Gary Boyer, Composer and Poetry/etc, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm. $10
An Evening with Elena White: Yours Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm. $7
Dave Pike #10: Visualization of Science, Ghetaroon module & the Art of Glass games Edinburgh Castle, 7:30 pm. $8
(pre) St. Paddy's Day Punk Rave III with Crabbram, Instant Toys (members of Everything Must Go, Fracas, Greaters), Rollerin Rosa (Lafayago Saadi, Born Dead), Fuzz the Hal, Tablemen, and Steve Jones, Elbo Room, 9 pm. $8
Voom with Sibling Says and Mr. Gold, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm. $8
Wingspan with PVT and Family Band, the Independent, 8 pm. $15 (sold out)

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy Clarke and la Gulna Latin, flamenco, Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Pena Pachamama, 8 pm. $12
Lounter, Boxe tha boo Yoshi's San Francisco, 6 pm. $8

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 1335 3rd St., Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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SELECTOR: DJ DELON W/ GUEST DJ DEEVICE

THUR 3/10

[illegible] with his patented blend of nu-jazz, downtempo and electro soul goodness. This evening he welcomes in special guest DJ DEEVICE (Pirate Cat Radio). Since moving to SF Deevice has played an integral role in the Bay Area music scene performing alongside the likes of [illegible], Derrick May, [illegible] Emerson, Mark Farina, J Boogie and others.

www.soundcloud.com/djdelon
www.soundcloud.com/djdeevice

BEEP! TRIO

FRI 3/11

8 pm Pianist Michael Coleman leads this smokin' Oakland-based jazz ensemble, always finding new ways to play standard jazz repertoire, pop songs and folk music while consistently composing original works. "The freshest sound in west coast jazz since Gerry Mulligan." Pandora Internet Radio.

www.myspace.com/beeptrio

MOSHIER/LEBRUN COLLECTIVE

SAT 3/12

[illegible] straight out of Chicago making their debut at Jupiter in support of their debut album "Young [illegible] one of two directions in common form [illegible] strictly to playing [illegible] classic ideas as the players get the music of the greats ingrained into them, or [illegible] spin wildly out of control. The Chicago quartet led by Josh Moshier (keys) and Mike Lebrun (alto sax) takes neither of the standard tacks. Instead, Lebrun and Moshier craft straightforward but clever pieces of melody, then use the band as a whole to ornament heavily around the themes.

soundcloud.com/mslbrun

THE NEW PARISH

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[illegible]

WED 3/9 / DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 / $8 / $11 / 18+
IL GATO
WITH [illegible] AND CLOUDS

THURS 3/10 / DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 / $[illegible] / 18+
THE BELLRAYS
WITH [illegible]

FRI 3/11 / [illegible] / $[illegible] ADV
GETT OFF: MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO DOES PRINCE
WITH MARTIN LUTHER, [illegible]

SAT 3/12 / [illegible] / SHOW 9:30 / $[illegible] ADV
GETT OFF: MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO DOES PRINCE
WITH MARTIN LUTHER, [illegible]

SUN 3/13 / [illegible] / $10 BEFORE 10PM / $20 AFTER
MOVEMENT
WITH [illegible]

THU 3/17 / DOORS 9 / SHOW 10 / $25 / 18+
ANTHONY B
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT 3/19 / DOORS [illegible] / SHOW [illegible] / $12 / ALL AGES
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MAR 11
F 8:00

MAR 13

MUSIC OF STEVIE WONDER
SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE
Herbst Theatre

- Miguel Zénon
- Mark Turner
- Avishai Cohen
- Robin Eubanks
- Stefon Harris
- Edward Simon
- Matt Penman
- Eric Harland

In years past, the Collective has paid tribute to legendary figures from jazz history, but this time, our all-star group approaches the work of an artist outside of the jazz tradition — one whose sophisticated songcraft is more than worthy of exploration, the incomparable Stevie Wonder.

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PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
Herbst Theatre

The traditional ensemble shares the raucous, soulful sound of New Orleans jazz. Opening is the Bourbon Kings Brass Band.

LIVING LEGENDS & NEW DIRECTIONS

SFJAZZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS COMBO
[illegible]

MARC RIBOT
Wednesday, March 16, 7:30PM

MARCUS ROBERTS
Thursday, March 17, 7:30PM

GO HOME
BEN GOLDBERG, ELLERY ESKELIN, CHARLIE HUNTER, SCOTT AMENDOLA
Friday, March 18, 8PM

PATRICIA BARBER
Saturday, March 19, 8PM

YASMIN LEVY
Sunday, March 20, 5PM

JANE MONHEIT
Thursday, March 24, 7:30PM

ADAM THEIS & THE JAZZ MAFIA STRING QUARTET
Friday, March 25, 8PM

JAKE SHIMABUKURO
Saturday, March 26, 7PM & 9PM

IRMA THOMAS
Sunday, March 27, 7PM

JOHN SANTOS SEXTET
Saturday, April 2, 8PM

MADELEINE PEYROUX
SUNNY WAR
Friday, April 8, 8PM

MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER
Saturday, April 9, 8PM

ASSAD BROTHERS
Sunday, April [illegible], 7PM

DR. LONNIE SMITH
BARBARA DENNERLEIN
Friday, April [illegible], 8PM

PROVERB TRIO
JAFNES [illegible], ROBANY & JASON LINDNER
Saturday, April 16, 8PM

ELLIS MARSALIS
Saturday, [illegible] PM

RANDY NEWMAN
Friday, April 22, 8PM

BUDDY GUY
JOHN NÉMETH
Saturday, April 23, 8PM

JOHN SCOFIELD
Friday, April 29, 8PM

LAVAY SMITH
Saturday, April 30, 8PM

GABRIELA MONTERO
Sunday, May 1, 2PM

SFJAZZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL STARS ORCHESTRA
Thursday, May 5, 7:30PM

CÉU
Friday, May 6, 8PM

RAVI SHANKAR
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
Thursday, May 19, 7:30PM

LIONEL LOUEKE TRIO
Friday, May 20, 8PM

ELIANE ELIAS TRIO
(SFJAZZ MEMBERS ONLY)
Saturday, May 21, 8PM

AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE
Sunday, May 22, 7PM

RICKIE LEE JONES
Friday, May 27, 8PM

TONY BENNETT
Saturday, May 28, 8PM

STEVE TYRELL
Friday, June 3, 8PM

ROVA SAXOPHONE QRT
WITH [illegible]
Saturday, June 4, 8PM

LEE RITENOUR WITH DAVE GRUSIN
Sunday, June 5, 7PM

A NIGHT IN TREME
REBIRTH BRASS BAND
KERMIT RUFFINS
DONALD HARRISON
BIG SAM WILLIAMS
DR. MICHAEL WHITE
Friday, [illegible], 8PM

YOUSSOU N'DOUR
ANGELIQUE KIDJO
Friday, June 17, 8PM

NIKKI YANOFSKY
Saturday, June 18, 8PM

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS
Sunday, June 19, 8PM

ROY HARGROVE & CEDAR WALTON
Sunday, June 19, 7PM

ANA MOURA
Saturday, June 25, 8PM

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 10

EAST BAY

Club Fever w/ Jason [illegible] spinning reggae & dancehall, Shattuck Down Low. 7 pm. free

Hotel Disco w/ [illegible], Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. free

DJ Adili spinning eclectic ear candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

DJ Night [illegible] spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 pm. free

Oakland Vice featuring [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] indie pop, mash-ups, new wave [illegible]. 10 pm-2 am. free

Selector [illegible] with DJ Oakland Jupiter, [illegible]. 9 pm. free

Tasty [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21. 9 pm. $12-$15

FRIDAY 11

EAST BAY

spinning w/ DJ [illegible] spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area, [illegible]. 9 pm. $5

DJ Night [illegible] spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 pm. free

Groove 2nd Fridays featuring DJ Saul [illegible], [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm. $10

Friday Hits [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. 10 pm. $5

Hip-Hop Room, Room w/ [illegible], Club 1220. 9 pm. $8

[illegible] Explosion DJ [illegible] cumbia, salsa, dancehall, dream Spanish pop, & [illegible], Bench and Bar. 9 pm-2 am. $6-$15

[illegible] weekly [illegible], DJ series, Artesia Music. 7 pm. free

Bar [illegible] Night featuring DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, hip-hop, & r&b, Sweet Fingers. 9 pm

[illegible] Night with DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, [illegible] Paradise Club. 10 pm. ladies free [illegible] 11:30 p.m.

"Reggae Fridays" [illegible], New Karibbean City. 9:30 pm-1:30 am. $5 to $10

Beltry Fridays [illegible] spin R&B & soul, [illegible]. 9 pm. $5

[illegible] Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, [illegible], [illegible], & more, Conga Lounge. 10 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Bangers with Silver Sword, [illegible], 111 Minna Street Gallery. 9 pm. $15

Fo' Shell Fridays [illegible] spin rare grooves, soul, hip-hop, funk, & international flavors, plus live hip-hop [illegible], Madrone Art Bar. 9 pm. $5 after 10 p.m.

Ghettodisco [illegible], The Endup. 10 pm. $15. free before midnight.

Lemon Room w/ [illegible], Make-Out Room. 10 pm. $5

Night of the Tides [illegible] spinning nasty soul & funk [illegible], The Knockout. 10 pm. $3

Original Plumbing with [illegible], Elbo Room. 10 pm. $6

SATURDAY 12

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hoodstyle Bar spinning R&B & hip-hop, Fonda. 10 pm. free

The Room, Yard hosted by Sean Kennedy, [illegible]. 2 pm. free

Club Maxwell's [illegible] & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge. 9 pm. $20

DJ Night [illegible] spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 pm. free

A Groove & Easy Affair w/ DJs spinning reggae, soca, & hip-hop, New Karibbean City. 9 pm. $15

Magic with [illegible] [illegible] & guests [illegible] extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

Noche Latina- Latin Night featuring DJ [illegible] spinning Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Vallenato, Reggaeton, Reggae en Espagnol, Rock en Espagnol, Pop Latino, Punta, Tango, & lots more, Conga Lounge. 10 pm. free

Soul Manifest w/ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & boogie, The Missouri Lounge. 10 pm. free

[illegible] [illegible] the Oakland Faders, [illegible], & the Bangerz spin classic party [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm. $6 [illegible]. 10:30 p.m. $10

Club Sixteen new wave video night w/ [illegible], Cat Club. 9:30 pm. free before 10 p.m., $7

[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJ Chris Harnett spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups, [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm. $5

Jasmine [illegible] Presents [illegible] with DJ [illegible] and friends, [illegible]. 10 pm. $7

[illegible] Party spinning [illegible], The Dominion [illegible] & more spinning salsa, dancehall, [illegible], reggae, cumbia, & Latin hip-hop, $5-$15, [illegible]. 10 pm

Seduction w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop and club [illegible], The Cellar. 9 pm. free [illegible] 11 p.m., $10 after

[illegible] Tropical with [illegible] (Mad Decent) and Shawn Reynolds and DJ [illegible], Elbo Room. 10 pm. $5 before 11 p.m., $10 thereafter

Vost Vost Vost DJs spin reggae, hip-hop, electro, mash-ups, & party classics, Club [illegible]. 9 pm. $10, before 10 p.m. $8, Room, 11 pm. $10

SUNDAY 13

EAST BAY

Groove Moment spinning rock on vinyl, Bar 355. 7 pm. free

King of Kings DJ Smoke-One [illegible] guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & more, Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. $10, ladies/students free before 11 pm

[illegible] w/ DJ Alberto spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school, Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 pm. free

Movement with [illegible], The Ruby Room. 7 pm. $10 before 9 p.m., $15 thereafter

The Soul-Full Glow DJ [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

spinning Sniffs DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] & old-school for bar & restaurant staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

MONDAY 14

EAST BAY

DJ Night spinning dub, ska, & [illegible], Easy Lounge. 9 pm. free

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro, Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free

Underground Lounge [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible]. 10 pm-2 am. free

spinning Sniffs DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] & old-school for bar & restaurant staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

PICK

Smoove Saturday with Kevvy Kev

Chances are you've seen him skulking at the side of the stage during a rap battle or a **Rock the Bells** concert. You know the loose braids, unbranded T-shirts, and sometimes a pencil-line mustache. You might even recognize his well-honed, amicable radio voice, featured every Sunday afternoon on Stanford radio station KZSU. Queens-born **DJ Kevin "Kevvy Kev" Montague** has been a fixture in Bay Area hip-hop ever since he matriculated at Stanford University in the early-Eighties. He started hosting "The Drum" at KZSU back in 1984, and helped make it the longest running hip-hop radio show in history — conceived in the late-1970s, it's now more than three decades old. Kev is also the founder and curator of "Bang the Drum," an annual festival featuring acts who have appeared on his show (among them **J Live, Hieroglyphics, Planet Asia, Foreign Legion, Das EFX, Peanut Butter Wolf** and **Dan the Automator**). It's no surprise then, that Kevvy Kev is regarded as both a local folk hero and the father of a dynasty. He'll bring that long sense of history to **Luka's Taproom & Lounge** (2221 Broadway, Oakland), where he'll spin at the weekly "Smoove Saturday" alongside **DJ Henroc** on Saturday, Mar. 12. 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10. LukasOakland.com. — *Rachel Swan*

free

TUESDAY 15

EAST BAY

DJ Night DJ [illegible] spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 pm. free

Escape college night featuring DJ Speedy & [illegible], Club 21. 9 pm. $5

Soul Fyah DJ [illegible], Miss [illegible], & guests spin reggae, [illegible] & [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. free

Vintage featuring DJ [illegible] & guests spinning [illegible] from the 60's through [illegible], Levende East. 7 pm

WEDNESDAY 16

EAST BAY

Persandian Latin cowboy night w/ José Vicente, Bench and Bar. 7 pm. $8-$15

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry open mic, [illegible] DJ [illegible]. 10 pm. free

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, dancehall, reggaeton, & more, plus salsa lessons, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm. free

LUKA'S
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WED 9PM	THE JET SET DJ SANTERO & DJ SLEEPOKE (LA) [illegible] dance party w/ the latest [illegible] from [illegible], the Americas & beyond
THUR 10PM	JUNGLE BOOGIE DJs POIZEN, KOOL KYLE & UNCLE JOE hip hop, soul & your requests!
FRI 10PM	MIGHTY IRIE DJs ROCKER-T, SMOKE-ONE & IRIE DOLE reggae, hip hop & dancehall
SAT 10PM	SMOOVE SATURDAYS DJs HENROC & KEVVY KEV hip hop, neo soul & world flavors
SUN 9PM	THE SOUL FULL GLOW RESIDENT DJ AEBLDEE soulful music for dancing. Get up!!!
MON 9PM	THREE DAY WEEKEND DJ MOROCCO SLIM hip hop & soul classics
TUES 10PM	THE NEW SOUL FYAH RESIDENT DJ SERG [illegible]

New Late Night Happy Hour!!!
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Starry Plough

THU 3/10 9PM $8	BLISSES B LEFT COASTING
FRI 3/11 9PM $8	PROG BY PROG WEST [illegible] SUPER SWEATY SCRATCH & [illegible] VARIETY HOURS WITH MORTAR AND IMMEREAR BRIGADE
SAT 3/12 ALL-AGES MATINEE 3PM 9PM $8	BEATBEAT WHISPER BIG EAGLE (FEAT. [illegible]) YEARLING MONTANA SLIM STRING BAND OLD STOCK, SPILL THE WINE
THU 3/17 8:30PM $15	STARRY PLOUGH'S 37TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION [illegible]
FRI 3/18 9PM $8	THE PICKPOCKET ENSEMBLE [illegible] DAN CANTRELL
SAT 3/19 9PM $8	JONATHAN MANN ALL MY PRETTY ONES SPARKY OR [illegible]

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Shattuck Down Low

WED. 9TH:
DOUG BEAVERS
ORQUESTRA ROVIRA
[illegible]

THURS. 10TH:
"DAMN GINA"
DJ'S KOOL KARLO & CHRIS FOX
electro funk, disco, heavy bass

FRI. 11TH:
"DAMN SHE HAWKS" TOUR
HOLLY SAUCY & THE INVALID TRUTH
PUNK FUNK MOM & PAM THE FUNKSTRESS

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SAT MARCH 12
7 PM ADHARA, CATRIONA BRYAN BILLIE AURNOR & FRIENDS

SUNDAY MARCH 13
3 PM LEN WONG ENSEMBLE

MONDAY MARCH 14
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Avalon Rising
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DONALD [illegible] LUDOLPH also known as DONALD LUDOLPH CASE NO. RP11[illegible]

[illegible]

A PETITION FOR PROBATE [illegible]

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE [illegible]

A HEARING on the petition will be held on [illegible] in Dept. [illegible] located at 2120 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. [illegible]

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR [illegible]

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. [illegible]

Attorney for Petitioner: [illegible]

Telephone: 415[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 447977

[illegible]

3/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448[illegible]

The following individual is doing business as **Polarity Business** [illegible]

Polarity Business

2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448123

The following individual is doing business as **Keynote Event Planning** [illegible]

Imperial Event Planning

2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448137

The following individual is doing business as **Industrial Tattoo & Piercing, LLC** [illegible]

Industrial Tattoo & Piercing, LLC

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448375

The following individual is doing business as **Vaccinity Properties** [illegible]

Vaccinity Properties

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# [illegible]

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448374

The following individual is doing business as **CVK Construction** [illegible]

CVK Construction

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# [illegible]

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11[illegible]

[illegible]

2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11[illegible]

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448137

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: [illegible] CASE NO. RP11[illegible]

[illegible]

A HEARING on the petition will be held [illegible]

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, [illegible]

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR [illegible]

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. [illegible]

WESTLAKE VILLAGE [illegible]

3/9, 3/16, 3/23/11

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448[illegible]

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# [illegible]

[illegible]

2/23, 3/2, 3/9/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11[illegible]

[illegible]

3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/2011

Business Business Name Statement File# 448[illegible]

[illegible]

3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File# 448170

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11[illegible]

[illegible]

3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2011

OFFictitious Business Name Statement File# 448[illegible]

[illegible]

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23/2011

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[illegible]

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Trustee Sale No. 245339CA Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 3/23/2011 at 12:00 PM CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded [illegible] Book Page Instrument 2006[illegible] of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: [illegible] as Trustor, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), solely as nominee for lender, [illegible], its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee [illegible] to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1562 [illegible] Lane Emeryville CA 94608 APN Number: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 2/25/2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee [illegible], Assistant Secretary CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com P[illegible] 3/2, 3/9, 03/16/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible] UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by ALICE E MORTENSEN, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, dated [illegible] and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book, Page of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on [illegible] at [illegible], At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA [illegible] at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be [illegible] COMMODORE DRIVE [illegible], EMERYVILLE, CA [illegible]. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is [illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., [illegible] SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: [illegible] Sale Information [illegible] By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible]

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by SAMUEL KANG, AN UNMARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, dated [illegible] and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book, Page, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on [illegible] at 12:00PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be [illegible] CHRISTIE AVENUE [illegible], EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is [illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., [illegible] SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: [illegible] Sale Information [illegible] By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible]

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by LADISLAO L. ARELLANO JR., dated [illegible] and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book, Page, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on [illegible] at 12:00PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: [illegible] BRUNSWIG LANE, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is [illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., [illegible] SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: [illegible] Sale Information [illegible] By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible]

Trustee Sale No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT, DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On [illegible] at [illegible] PM, Allied Trustee Services (Trustee) under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on [illegible] as Instrument [illegible] Book Page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, property owned by: Todd J Snyderman and Sarah E Cohen will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check/cash equivalent or other form of payment authorized by [illegible] (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) at: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA all right, title and interest under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, describing the land therein: A.P.N No. [illegible] The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: [illegible] Commodore Drive [illegible] Emeryville, CA [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee. The estimated total amount of the unpaid balance at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is [illegible] property will be sold subject to the right of redemption. The claimant, Watergate Community Association under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Date: [illegible] Allied Trustee Services [illegible] Authorized Signature For Sales Information Please Call (714) 573-1965 Allied Trustee Services 990 Reserve Drive Suite 208, Roseville CA 95678 [illegible]

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. [illegible] Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On [illegible] at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded [illegible], Book, Page, Instrument [illegible], of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: LATEEFAH SIMON, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. (MERS), SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR LENDER [illegible] MORTGAGE BANKERS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, IT'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] INTEREST AS A TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO LOT [illegible], PARCEL MAP [illegible], FILED MARCH [illegible], MAP BOOK [illegible], PAGES [illegible], ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS, AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED OCTOBER [illegible], AS SERIES NO. [illegible], ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS DESIGNATED ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF ANDANTE, A CONDOMINIUM PROJECT, RECORDED DECEMBER [illegible], SERIES NO. [illegible], OFFICIAL RECORDS, AS FOLLOWS: BUILDING [illegible] UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible] AND UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], BUILDING [illegible] UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible] AND [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], BUILDING [illegible] UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible] AND UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], BUILDING [illegible] UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible], UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible] AND UNITS [illegible] THROUGH [illegible]. B) ALL OF THE COMMERCIAL UNITS DESIGNATED ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE, AS FOLLOWS: C1 THROUGH C[illegible], INCLUSIVE. C) THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE ALL OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREAS ([illegible]), RESIDENTIAL HANDICAP PARKING ([illegible]), STORAGE AREAS ([illegible], ETC.) AND DECKS ([illegible], ETC.) AS SHOWN ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE. PARCEL TWO: UNIT [illegible], IN BUILDING [illegible], AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREA [illegible] AND [illegible], DECK [illegible] IN BUILDING [illegible] AND STORAGE [illegible] IN BUILDING [illegible] AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, USE AND ENJOYMENT OVER THAT PORTION OF THE COMMON AREA OF LOT [illegible], PM [illegible], AS SET FORTH IN THE CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: [illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: [illegible] 40TH STREET #[illegible] EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. [illegible] DATE: [illegible] CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee CASIMIR NUNEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 [illegible]

SAVAGE LOVE

FASTER! HARDER!

Plus advice for cheaters and non-cheaters.

By Dan Savage

Long story short: I cheated on my boyfriend three years ago. I admitted it nine months ago, and we've been in couples counseling for six months. My boyfriend is very responsive in therapy, where we're working on his control issues, and he says everything the therapist expects him to during a session. Twenty-four hours later, though, he'll say, "I was listening to Dan Savage's podcast . . ." then take back everything he said to our therapist. He ignores our therapist's advice because of something you once gave to a differently situated couple. Could you please tell your readers and listeners who are in counseling to ignore you and listen to their therapists?

Your No Good Counsel

I won't go that far, YNGC — *I will not be ignored* — but I will go this far: It sounds like your boyfriend is still angry about the affair and isn't being fully honest during those therapy sessions. He's saying what he thinks the therapist wants to hear instead of owning his anger — pardon my psychobabble — and justifies his post-session backsliding/truth-telling by pointing to some fool thing I might have said on the podcast.

You can tell him that I said it's fine if he's still angry, and that's something he might want to talk with your therapist about, but I would appreciate being left out of it. And you can tell him I also said this: If he wants to stay with you, then he needs to forgive you and work on rebuilding trust. If he can't forgive you, he needs to leave you. But to jerk you around like this — even if you're the one who transgressed — is a dick move. And it's not the kind of dick move that I want to be associated with, so again, he should leave me out of it.

All of that said, YNGC, I'm thinking your boyfriend isn't being honest with your therapist — about his anger, about your relationship, about anything — because he maybe (maybe rightly) perceives these sessions to be a joint effort to shift the blame for your affair onto his shoulders. (A joint effort on the part of you and your therapist.) You say you're "working on his control issues" during these sessions. That's nice. If your boyfriend has control issues, YNGC, then by all means work on 'em. If you're not working on your own issues — if your therapist doesn't think you have any issues — then I don't blame your boyfriend for not taking your therapist or these sessions seriously.

I'm a 24-year-old female and I've just started seeing a great guy. The chemistry was insane — he's a great kisser, he loves going down — and this had me thinking that the sex would also be great.

We've now slept together a few times and . . . it could be better. He's got all the moves — not to mention being really well endowed — but he just lies there like a dead fish. Very little thrusting, and he doesn't use his hands. I've asked him to do it doggie style (some improvement) and I've said stuff like "Faster! Harder!" (also with some improvement). But any momentum he gets is fleeting. It's like he's thinking too much about the act instead of losing himself in it.

I really like him and enjoy his company. But sexual compatibility is really important, too! How can I address the "dead fish" issue? Is this going to be a deal breaker?

Everything But The Sex

He appears to be concentrating ("thinking too much about the act"), he keeps thrusting to a minimum, he isn't using his hands in ways that might heighten your arousal or his own . . . hmm.

You might want to ask this great guy — who does great with at least one sex act (oral) but not great with at least one other (vaginal intercourse) but has already demonstrated the ability to improve (if only fleetingly) — if he used to have a problem with premature ejaculation.

Based on your description of what he's doing and not doing, EBTS, it sounds like your boyfriend is following the standard issue advice given to premature ejaculators. To train themselves to last longer, preemies are advised to concentrate, to pay close attention to their arousal levels (so they don't get to the "moment of no return" too quickly), to thrust slowly and carefully, and to not overload themselves with too much additional stimuli (groping your breasts with his hands, say, while he's inside you). Your boyfriend may not be really "losing himself" in sex because he fears it will result in him coming too soon. This would also explain why he's a different man — and a better lay — when he's going down on you.

If I'm right, and premature ejaculation is the issue, you can work on upping the intensity levels. It'll take time, EBTS, but it sounds like this guy is worth the investment.

I'm a 27-year-old gay man in a three-year relationship. My boyfriend has always been the mature one, I the immature one. Yesterday, I discovered he has a special e-mail account to look for sex with strangers. I saw chats and other evidence of cheating. We are not having safe sex since quite a long time. We are planning to start living together soon. He has always told me that he is incapable of cheating and many times said that if one of us would fail and cheat, it would be me.

I haven't talked to him. I cannot sleep.

Help My Disappointed Heart

Your boyfriend is a manipulative POS. He wanted the freedom to fuck other guys but didn't want his boyfriend to enjoy the same freedom. So he made you feel like you were the problem — he convinced you that you were the immature one and that you were the one most likely to cheat. He maliciously undermined your self-esteem — so that you would be too busy worrying about and scrutinizing your own shortcomings to notice his. DTMFA. ●

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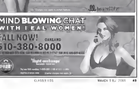
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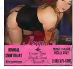

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